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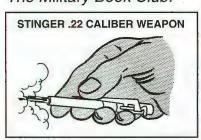
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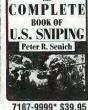
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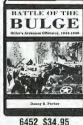


















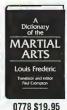
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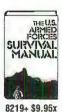












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#### **Let Off-Duty Cops Carry**

All things considered, a legislative proposal to significantly increase police protection of the public without adding to the tax burden is going to get our serious and sympathetic attention.

in effect, is H.R. Such, 4897, recently introduced by Congressmen Duke Cunningham (R-Calif.) and Ralph Hall (D-Texas), and backed by a relatively newly formed group called the Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA). Shorn of the legalese, H.R. 4897 provides that all active-duty law enforcement officers and retirees in good standing will be permitted to carry concealed weapons off duty anywhere in the United States.

Most authorities permit their own officers to carry within their specific jurisdiction, but the status of offduty or retired officers carrying outside their own jurisdictions (and 'jurisdiction" may be as small as a township) is not at all clear and therefore fraught with the chance of vexatious and embarrassing hassles to the point that most officers don't do so.

Thus, an off-duty officer outside his own jurisdiction, when confronted with an emergency situation, like the massacre last year in Luby's Cafe in Killeen, Texas, is probably without the basic tool (i.e., old Betsy) required to sort the thing out. After all, the techniques and procedures for sorting out this kind of emergency are basically the same in Florida, in Washington state and all places in

By establishing clear authority for all law enforcement officers to carry everywhere, H.R. 4897 resolves this problem and in effect thousands of additional trained. qualified sworn officers on the beat without putting an additional bite on the taxpaver. The results cannot fail to be beneficial to public security.

Also, in the course of his duties, a cop often ends up taking unwelcome action against many potentially dangerous and vengeful scumbags, most of whom will be back on the street before they have forgotten the cop who nailed them. Most of them will not be concerned with legal technicalities about permits to carry or about felons not having possession of firearms. We like the idea of the cop being permitted to carry the means of defending himself and his family.

We also like the deterrent effect on the scumbags from knowing that the intended object of revenge is probably carrying and will very probably shoot back. If a man or woman is sufficiently trustworthy and well trained to be issued a badge, a gun and a book of citation blanks, it's a bit hard to see why he or she shouldn't be allowed, even encouraged, to carry off duty and wherever he or she may go.

An argument can be made that this is a matter best left to state and local authority. But it is exactly the confusion and uncertainty arising from the bewildering variety of local laws, rules and interpretations that deter the conscientious cop (and we hope that's all of them) from carrying except in places where he or she knows that it clearly is legal. Hence the need for a clear, uniform, nationwide rule as set out in H.R. 4897.

The NRA is for it. It's hard to see who could be against it, except the crooks. So nice, respectful letters to your senators and congresspersons in support of H.R. 4897 are in order.

Today is as good a time as ever.

Colonel Alex McColl

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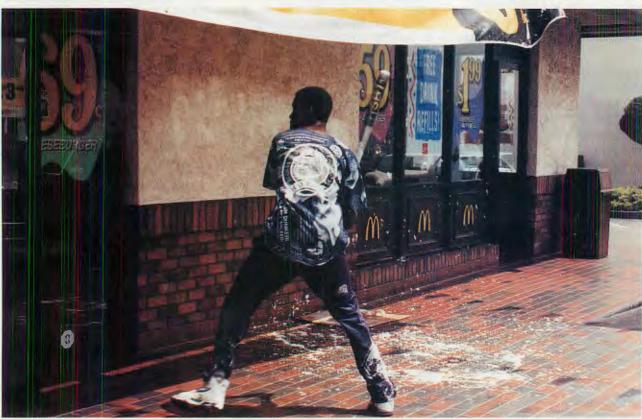
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VOL. 17 NO. 8 AUGUST 1992

#### **FEATURES**



John Botoro M.D.

War Zone Los Angeles — Page 52

Photo: Robert Walchli

On a mission of mercy sponsored by SOF's American volunteer doctors train Karen mer squeamish	Refugee Relief International, three	
BUSHWHACKED IN THE BALKANS		

DEATH IN THE TALL GRASS Peter G. Kokalis Father of the M16, Gene Stoner, again hits the mark with his SR-25 milspec sniper system



Combat and Caring — Page 30 Photo: Dr. John Peters



#### COLUMNS



Mohammed's Militants - Page 62

Photo: T.A. Davis

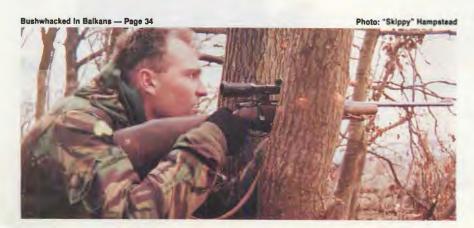
SHOOT-OUT AT LAKE OSWEGO	Greg Walke	e
It took a knifemaker to design the most challenging tactical shooting	match in th	١E
Pacific Northwest — Al Mar's Law Enforcement Invitational	5	5

WAR ZONE LOS ANGELES ...... Jim Morris Jury verdict ignites America's second-largest city into anarchy. Former SOF staffer tries to find out why

ancient cemetery, 2/7 Cav regroups and prepares to face a new day of fighting at An Thi

MOHAMMED'S MILITANTS ...... Neil Livingstone

We won the war with Iraq, but Islamic fanatics are still on the march — with Iran leading the way. Will they be our enemies in the next world war?







Bombs Over Baghdad — Page 38 Photo: U.S. Air Force

#### COVER

California Highway Patrolman, armed with Smith & Wesson .40 S&W pistol and Remington M870 Military and Police 12-gauge shotgun, warily watches for snipers as he guards firefighters battling one of hundreds of blazes set during five days of the rioting in Los Angeles. See SOF's report starting on page 52.

Photo: Giboux/Gamma-Liaison

#### **BULLETIN BOARD**



#### 900 COLT JOBS ENDANGERED BY **HCI ATTACK ON STATE OWNERSHIP ...**

The shrill ranting of anti-gun fanatics reached new heights of emotional pitch and illogical argument in April when Sarah Brady, head of Handgun Control Inc., launched a media attack on the state of Connecticut for having what Brady claims is a "pro-assault-weapons policy."

Brady's brash broadside took aim at Connecticut's ownership of 47% of the stock in Colt's Manufacturing Co. through the state's employee pension fund. It would have been laughable except that thousands of jobs are at stake at the financially struggling Colt company.

Colt, a name synonymous with the histories of the Old West and the 20th-century U.S. military, filed for bankruptcy protection this past March, about two years after Connecticut's state pension fund invested \$25 million in the Hartfordbased company to prevent a cutback of more than 900 jobs. Colt's financial strength began to wane in the late 1980s when it lost its longtime

Desert Storm Baby Boom: Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and other areas of the country with a lot of Gls, experienced a miniature population explosion nine months (more of less) after the troops came home from the Gulf. Fort Bragg alone expected some 1,500 births. Here, Sgt. Maj. Rick Dunlap, 44, poses with three-month-old daughter Jessica, after making his 100th jump onto Normandy DZ at Fort Bragg.

Photo: courtesy Bob MacKenzie

Dr. Mikhail T. Kalashnikov (left) and SOF Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis discuss Kalashnikov's famed development at a recent meeting between the two former adversaries. **Photo: Chris Mayer** 

Pentagon contract for the M16 rifle. In what amounts to an attack on state employees' rights to choose investment opportunities in a free marketplace, Brady is pressuring Connecticut State Treasurer Francisco L. Borges to either sell off the Colt stock or force the weapons company to halt production of the "Sporter" rifle. The Sporter is a semiautomatic recreational weapon: an adaptation of Colt's AR-15, which was a civilian, semi-automatic version of the M16 military rifle.

Neither Colt nor state officials have let Brady's attack go unchallenged. Ronald E. Stilwell, Colt's president, said Brady's statements "continue to deal with emotions" and not facts.

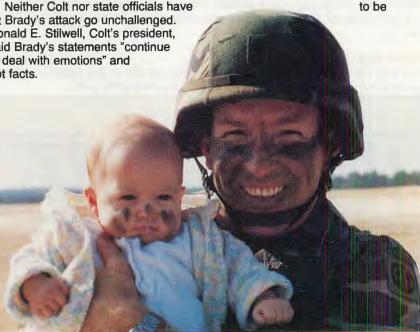
A statement issued by the Connecticut Development Authority also denied that the Sporter is an assault weapon "by any legal definition." It also attacked Brady's group for jeopardizing jobs in tough economic times by trying to "make a trophy" of a "wounded company they can bring down."

Brady's shrillness is not surprising. She is the wife of James Brady, a former White House press secretary who remains partially paralyzed from a gunshot wound inflicted when a deranged man attempted to kill President Reagan in 1981. Although not previously involved, his wife has since then become obsessed with gun control, helping to establish HCI. Someone apparently needs to explain to her that not only is a Colt Sporter not an assault rifle, it's not a handgun, either. - Jim Pate

#### **EXCISE TAX ELUCIDATION ...**

'Command Guidance" in the July SOF discussed the application of the manufacturer's excise tax to custom gunsmiths, now that the BATF has taken over this taxing function from the IRS - sort of like a job being handed over to the KGB by the GRU. Since then, as a result of more than a little prodding by the NRA and others, BATF has issued a letter intended to clarify the matter. According to the memo attached to this letter, the

following are considered



#### PALADIN

#### SOLDIERS ON SKIS

#### A Pictorial Memoir of the 10th Mountain Division

by Flint Whitlock and Bob Bishop

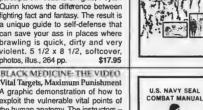
Here is the eagerly anticipated story of the 10th Mountain Division, the only U.S. troops specially trained for mountain warfare. Vivid personal accounts, including a Foreword by 10th veteran Sen. Bob Dola, range from the hamorous to the horrific to the heart-wrenching, and an outstanding collection of rare photos captures the serenity of the 10th's Colorado training grounds as well as the stark brutality of the battlefield in Italy in WWII. Soldiers on Skis skillfully weaves together the mamories of the mountaineers, tracing the 10th's path from the rugged training at Camp Hale to its tirst taste of combat in the Aleutians to its triumphant deproyment to Italy, when it spearheaded the victorious Allied drive in a mad dash through the Northern Apennines and into the Po River Valley. The pook also pays tribute to the role the veterans of America's "ski troops" played in the phenomenal rise of the ski industry in America, 11 x 8 1/2, hardcover, photos, filus., 244 po.





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FISTS, WITS, AND A WICKED RIGHT Surviving on the Wild Side of the Street by Marc "Animal" MacYoung

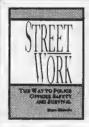
"It's awareness, wits and fists that will keep you safe out there, not some fancy Oriental fighting form, says Animal. Here, he gets down to the fine points and brutal technicalities of blows and targeting - the critical stuff that will keep you from becoming dead meat. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, Illus., 152 pp.



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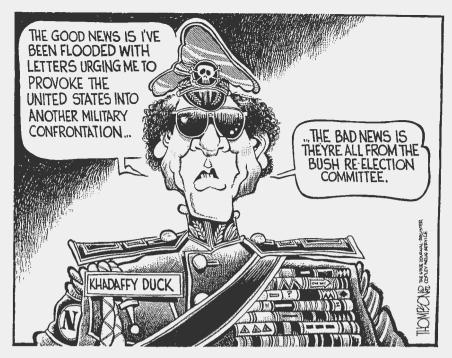
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"manufacturing" and would incur excise tax liability:

- Alterations that "materially change a firearm so that a different article results" [we do not know how "material" such changes must be, i.e., if this includes such things as rebarreling to a different caliber, fitting a stock of different configuration, and so on.l.
- "However, if parts are added to a frame, receiver or action, such alterations are generally found to be manufacture." [e.g. having your gunsmith buy an M1911 frame and build up a gong gun, or a surplus Swedish Mauser action and put together that .257 deer rifle you always wanted].
- "Additionally, when custom firearms are produced from new or used firearms acquired by a gunsmith, as when surplus military firearms are 'sporterized,' and the custom firearms are a new and different firearm, then manufacture has taken place." [We assume that a gunsmith who buys a barrel of partsguns and cannibalizes together some working parts has then

"manufactured" them — but does putting an old '03 Springfield in a drop-in stock constitute "sporterizing" (therefore manufacturing), or do you also have to bend the bolt, shorten and recrown the barrel, and fit a scope mount? Do you have to change calibers for a gun to be "new and different?"

In short, whenever a BATF agent decides that whatever happened to the original weapon has made it a "new and different" firearm, then "manufacturing" has taken place and excise tax must be paid by the gunsmith.

According to the BATF memo, the

following are *not* considered manufacturing:

- "Repair of a firearm by replacing or modifying existing parts."
- "'Refinishing' a firearm, as in bluing or black anodizing, or engraving a firearm."
- "Sale of parts or accessories such as telescope mounts, rubber recoil pads, sights and similar parts when sold with the complete firearm." [The memorandum does not so state, but are we safe in inferring that the gunsmithing involved in installing these components for a customer does not constitute "manufacture?"]

The memo further "clarifies" the following:

- "Where a gunsmith is working on a firearm owned by the customer, the customer is the manufacturer and the gunsmith incurs no tax liability even when his alterations amount to manufacture. If the customer uses the firearm for personal use after delivery from the gunsmith, no tax liability is incurred; if the customer sells the firearm before using it, he is liable for the excise tax."
- "Where the gunsmith is selling the firearm to the customer and, in connection with that sale, the gunsmith performs alterations that constitute manufacture, the sale of the altered firearm results in tax liability." [The paragraph shows a strong inclination to "blend the sale and the subsequent manufacture into one transaction," even when separated by an interval of time or treated as separate transactions by the parties.]
- "If the gunsmith is truly only a conduit for the delivery of the firearm, and the firearm is in fact purchased from another licensee, the gunsmith does not incur tax liability by his

alteration and delivery of the firearm to the customer."

So, now you know ...

- Colonel Alex McColl

#### ARMED ANNISTONIAN PREVENTS KILLEEN REPEAT ...

While the Killeen, Texas, shooting received national attention last year, another similar scenario did not: In this instance, when three gunmen came into a restaurant and herded employees and customers into a cooler, there was an armed citizen who promptly defended himself, and in the process saved the lives of more than 20 people.

Thomas Terry, age 46, was eating in a Shoney's restaurant in Anniston. Alabama, when the three armed thugs walked in. He hid under a table as the trio herded employees and customers into the walk-in cooler; then, when a would-be robber found Terry, Terry shot and killed the hoodlum with a .45. A Vietnam vet with a concealed-carry permit, Terry then put his sights on the criminal who held the restaurant manager at gunpoint — this robber shot at Terry and missed, whereupon Terry returned fire, hitting the crook several times. Employees, customers, the manager and Terry were all unharmed.

Police officials said the case would be referred to a grand jury. Really? Do grand juries issue medals for citizen heroism in Alabama these days?

Oh well, better tried by 12 than carried by six ...

#### WHAT A RELIEF ...

If you like the story "Combat and Caring" on page 30 of this issue, you'll be pleased to know that Refugee Relief International (RRI) helps wherever they can - even assisting deserving people in former enemy states. We recently sent 105 boxes of medical supplies and equipment to the McCoskrie Threshold Foundation in Florida, and they reported back that Brigadier General H. C. Aderholt hand-carried some of the supplies with him to Azerbaijan, and the rest were airlifted there and are being put to good use.

And RRI can always use more. They can use virtually any medical supply that does not have to be kept refrigerated or locked up, and, of course, cash donations (they are tax-deductible) can often go to purchase medical supplies in areas where it is not feasible to ship materials or equipment. Every dime is put to good use: RRI's staff is not paid. Contact Col. Alex McColl, c/o RRI, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

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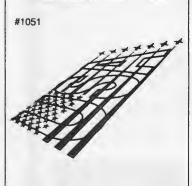
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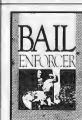
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#### **COMBAT CRAFT**

by Louis Awerbuck

#### **Shots In The Dark**



Mike Harries' flashlight technique, employed with a handgun and remotely held flashlight (the shooter pictured is left-master-eyed). Photo: courtesy Louis Awerbuck

#### In the Land of the Blind, the one-eyed man is king.

By the same token, if you can't see your enemy, and/or identify him as such, you will not be able to hit him unless you have the leeway to use searching fire — and have a measure of luck to boot. While in some out-and-out military situations you will have the legal and moral justification to utilize search-fire techniques, for the overwhelming percentage of contacts visual-target identification is imperative.

Even though the United States' war machine is unquestionably the world leader in high-tech night vision equipment, tragedy still strikes on occasion because of an inanimate machine's inability to identify friend from foe. Night Vision Goggles (NVGs), too, are often ineffective because of differing light and terrain conditions.

On a more "personal" basis, however, such as in urban day-to-day law enforcement and civilian applications, equipment is still essential to make up for the inadequacies of human vision under poor light conditions.

The equipment primarily used in this field of operations is generally comprised of flashlights and laser-dot systems as well as tritium sight inserts.

Probably the least beneficial of this Big Three is the laser dot system. While the "all you have to do is place the red dot in his chest" story sounds great in theory, in practice it's not so easy, especially on a moving human target. This system, however, is useful in a murky, smoke-filled environment as it will "punch through" smoke, where a flashlight beam will "bounce back"

much like auto headlight beams in fog. The laser dot is also an asset in a sniper-type situation, where you can take your time on a non-moving target.

The laser dot package will not help target identification; the basics of marksmanship still have to be employed, a fact often overlooked by people looking for a technological "quick fix" to override operator inability.

Tritium sight inserts are one of just a few recent innovations that are worth anything out in the field. They consist of self-illuminating modules that "glow" in the dark — the poorer the ambient light, the brighter the apparent luminescence. Inlet into a weapon's front and rear sights, they allow the shooter to use his "normal" sighting techniques, irrespective of the ambient light. In normal daylight conditions the tritium "washes out," leaving the shooter with a standard sight picture.

Arguably the forerunners in developing this system, Innovative Weaponry Inc. (Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 800-334-3573) offers the inserts in a pistol combination of three dots (two rear-sight dots bracketing a single front), or a bar-dot configuration (a single dot in front "subtending" a single horizontal bar in the rear sight). In addition, they supply different configurations for shoulder weapons.

While tritium inserts are vital in poor light, like the laser dot they are

essentially used to gain a sight picture on a target which is visible and identifiable. For example, where a set of black steel sights would become lost against a dark background, the tritium would allow sight alignment and a sight picture.

But both of the above-mentioned systems have one common problem — target identification. And here's where the flashlight becomes invaluable.

If it's light enough to identify your target, a flashlight is unnecessary, as under these circumstances you will have enough illumination to use either the laser dot or tritium systems, or possibly even normal steel sights.

However, if it is too dark to identify your target without a mechanical aid, the flashlight becomes crucial — before, during, and after the gunfire.

Before the gunfire to identify the innocent parties from the hostile. During gunfire to illuminate the vital areas on the enemy, and to silhouette the gunsights against your target area for the requisite sight picture needed for accurate street marksmanship.

Finally, after the gunfire to maintain control of your enemy. Many training scenarios don't incorporate this last facet into night sessions. For real, you have to control your enemy either until help arrives or until such time as you have physically immobilized him yourself. In a military context, the enemy will either probably be dead or out of the picture, one way or another.

Urban law enforcement or civilian

A Remington 870 fitted with Laser Products' integral fore-end flashlight, and a Glock 19 with Adventurer's Outpost clip-on flashlight system. Photo: courtesy Louis Awerbuck



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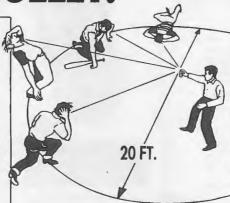
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shootings, however, usually leave the shooter with a different tactical aftermath to contend with. What all this boils down to is two different schools of thought in both the mechanical and tactical fields.

While tactical situations are different each time, there are those who suggest you always switch off the illumination and move laterally immediately after firing, "so he doesn't have the light source to zero-in on." This may be viable in some situations, but it would be vital as well to remember that this time you aren't playing games on a shooting range — this one's for real. You may be in for a rude awakening when you re-illuminate the scene and you will have to do this sooner or later, a fact conveniently forgotten on training ranges.

The trick is to always utilize cover and concealment to your advantage, as you would during daylight - but you have to maintain control of the situation, especially after you have fired. An additional problem is that you may not be able to change body position because of terrain, furniture, or other obstacles.

If you envision a tactical scenario where you may have to leave the light on, you will need a compatible weapons system allowing you to do so. It's all very well having a trick piece of equipment offering you two-handed illumination/operation of a shoulder weapon, but if it won't allow you to operate the light switch and still maintain control of your weapon onehanded, it's a white elephant.

For example, Laser Products (Dept. SOF, 18300 Mount Baldy Circle. Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: 714-545-9444) offer a variety of configurations on their shoulderweapon integral flashlight fore-end systems, by which you can leave the light on, switch it off, or illuminate an area temporarily by means of a pressure switch. If you need a free hand, or worse, lose the use of one hand, such a mechanical system becomes essential in poor light.

While gun-mounted lights are nothing new — they first appeared on handguns in the 1940s, and before that on rifles — tactical thinking needs to go beyond this.

Similarly, whether you employ the FBI, Ayoob, Chapman, or Harries technique for hand-held pistol/flashlight operation, you still need a game plan for target illumination and takedown control after the smoke clears. Here, clip-on flashlight attachments with remote firing-hand, pressure-switch operation, such as those manufactured by Adventurer's Outpost (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 70, Cottonwood, AZ 86326; phone: 800-762-7471) can be a good way to go.

#### BATTLE BLADES

by Greg Walker

**New Cold Steel** 

n January this year, Cold Steel continued its tradition of exploring innovative and unique blade forms by introducing several new designs. Three of these new blades are unique enough to warrant our attention: two pocketknives and an economical variation on the company's highly respected "Tanto" model.

**Emergency Rescue Knife** 

One of Cold Steel's more difficult

projects has been development of the Emergency Rescue Knife (ER1). Meant to appeal to emergency services personnel, the ER1 immediately reminded me of the always-useful box knife found in most warehouses and back-office supply rooms.

Cold Steel's evolution of this design includes a polycarbonate housing for the blade, and a patented sliding lock mechanism used to open, secure and close the blade. The blade itself is a 400-series stainless steel, hollow-ground, 4-inch cutting edge featuring an effective serration pattern.

The ER1 comes in either international orange (for quick

identification/location at an emergency scene) or basic black. The housing appears to be exceptionally tough, as evidenced by its survival of a slow runover by my Toyota van, equipped complete with studded snow tires. Afterward, the housing showed no surface damage, and the blade was easily projected, locked and then retracted with no apparent internal damage done to its patented mechanism.

Anyone who has ever worked at an accident scene can attest to equipment being misplaced during the semiorderly confusion of such an environment. Small items like knives do get stepped on, kicked away, or run over by emergency personnel and their responding vehicles.

The ER1 blade has a sheep's-foot tip pattern, allowing the knife to be used close to a victim's body without fear of accidental puncture.

Such emergency knives are most often used to slash seat belts away from trapped auto crash victims, or to cut shroud lines from injured sport/military parachutists. The CS serrated edge is very sharp and 100% effective while ripping through Levi's denim, light plastics, Gore-Tex and other commonly

used clothing materials.

The sole drawback to this tool's design is its lack of a lanyard hole, pocket clip or keeper ring. Because of this missing feature, the user either has to return his ER1 to a pocket/sheath or lay it down while working, which increases the danger of its being lost, stepped on, run over or otherwise abused.

Overall, the ER1 is wonderfully prac-

opening system I've seen on a production folder to date.

Does the thumb-glide system work? Yes and no — after several minutes' practice I was able to open the knife, although it sometimes took a two-step motion to both open and lock the blade in place. After a while, I became fairly proficient at opening-locking the blade in one motion, but I have yet to experience a constant rate of success in this



Cold Steel's ER-1 possesses a positive locking system and exceptionally sharp serration pattern. Tough enough for the streets, the ER-1 makes a handy pocket tool for those involved in emergency services. Photo: Greg Walker

tical for its intended audience, with a wide range of uses for those more mundane chores found in the everyday workplace. It retails for \$19.95.

#### **Ultralock**

Cold Steel describes its Ultralock series as "the ultimate in liner-type lock technology." The series features three distinct blade/edge options, based on the traditional clip- and Tanto-point patterns. All blades are ground from a 400-series stainless steel; a pocket clip allows for easy carry in lieu of a belt sheath. To open an Ultralock, one uses what Cold Steel calls a "thumb-glide" system. A deeply notched platform has been created at the rear of the blade, which protrudes above the glass-filled nylon handle. The user places his thumb firmly against this platform, rotating the blade out and upward. In essence, this is the same motion used to "flick your Bic." This is the only such area. Further, when I took the knife from my pocket, the forward-third of its blade tended to strike the heel of my palm during the opening movement. In other words, you really have to perfect a specific grip on the knife in order to open and lock the blade in one single motion.

Comparing this system with the more conventional opening-stud formats, such as those found on Benchmade's "Panther" and AMK's "Angler," it is difficult to see any real improvement. I found the thumb-glide operation to be no faster nor more secure than using an opening stud, or opening disc-type such as offered on Bob Terzuola's new "Carbon Fiber Folder."

Otherwise, the Ultralock folder I evaluated (clip point, serrated edge) proved itself to be durable and, as with all Cold Steel cutlery products, razor sharp right out of the box. After a while I simply reverted to opening the knife using the substantial nail nick, which served its purpose nicely.

The locking system is tight and sure, and the attachment clip equally reli-

Continued on Page 19



## BUGER



## P-SERIES — PISTOLS WITHOUT PEER

Each model within the Ruger P-Series is a master-piece of design and construction. Only the finest materials are used: hard-coated A356T6 aluminum alloy and our own proprietary Terhune Anticorro stainless steel (or chrome-

moly in blued models), and the nearly indestructible 6123 Xenoy resin grip panels. Without the use of special tools, all P-Series pistols easily fieldstrip within seconds into five major subassemblies for cleaning and maintenance.

The Ruger P89 models represent the third generation of the original P85 design. The P89 Manual Safety model is a fifteen-shot, 9mm recoiloperated pistol incorporating the latest advances in Ruger design, perfect for those who want a manual ambidextrous safety. This model is available in blued finish or stainless steel.

For those who prefer to carry 9mm caliber decock-only or double-action-only models, Ruger created the P89DA



(Decock-Only) and the P89DAO (Double-Action-Only) models. Both are fifteen-shot pistols, with the P89 Decock-Only available in blued or stainless steel, and the P89 Double-Action-Only available in stainless steel only.

For those of you who have determined the extra power of the .40 Auto is advantageous, Ruger offers the P91 models. Decock-Only and Double-Action-Only versions are available in stainless steel with an eleven-shot magazine. The .40 caliber P91 is a great balance of power and portability.

For the big-bore stopping power of .45 ACP ammunition, you want one of the Ruger P90 models. The P90 is available in stainless steel in a Manual Safety or Decock-Only version, each with a seven-shot magazine. Compact and functional, the P90 models add to the popularity of the time-and-field-proven .45 ACP caliber.

Ammunition: Ruger P89 pistols are suitable for continuous use with 9mm Luger +P and +P+ ammunition, and Ruger P90 pistols with .45 ACP +P ammunition.



#### MANUAL SAFETY MODEL

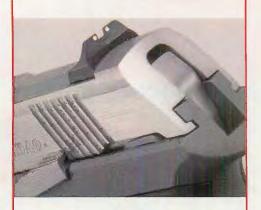
These models incorporate manual ambidextrous safety levers that, when engaged,

push the firing pin forward into the slide, out of reach of the hammer. At the same time, the firing pin is locked firmly in position, preventing forward movement; only then is the hammer decocked. The gun cannot be fired without moving the safety lever back to the "fire" position and pulling the trigger. (See inset below left this page.)



#### DECOCK-ONLY MODEL (No Manual Safety)

In Ruger Decock-Only (DA) models, the hammer is safely decocked by depressing either of the ambidextrous decocking levers. When released, the levers spring back to the "fire" position. After decocking, the gun can be fired by a double-action pull of the trigger without further manipulation of the decocking levers. (See inset above.)



#### DOUBLE-ACTION-ONLY MODEL

Similar in operation to a double-action revolver, the trigger pull is "double action only" for each shot. Secondstrike capability is standard; however, single-strike operation can be built into all DAO models on request. All Ruger DAO models come with a bobbed hammer. (See inset above.)

Specifications — All Models Barrel length: 4½". Overall length: 7½". Weight: approx. 36 oz. (magazine empty).



If you are interested in learning more about Ruger firearms, please contact Sturm Ruger & Company, Inc., 123 Lacey Place, Southport, Connecticut 06490 (phone 203-259-7843).

#### P-SERIES CONFIGURATIONS AND CALIBERS — ALL NEW FOR 1992

Catalog No.	Finish	Features	Caliber*	Magazine Cap.
P89	Blued	Manual Safety	9mm Luger	15
KP89	Stainless	Manual Safety	9mm Luger	15
P89DA	Blued	Decock-Only	9mm Luger	15
KP89DA	Stainless	Decock-Only	9mm Luger	15
KP89DAO	Stainless	Double-Action-Only	9mm Luger	15
KP90	Stainless	Manual Safety	.45 ACP	7
KP90DA	Stainless	Decock-Only	.45 ACP	7
KP91DA	Stainless	Decock-Only	.40 Auto	11
KP91DAO	Stainless	Double-Action-Only	.40 Auto	11

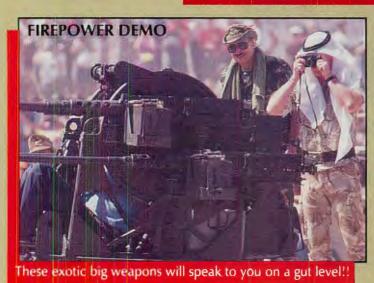
\*9mm Luger models are capable of handling +P and +P+ ammunition; .45 ACP models are capable of handling +P ammunition.

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able for daily street carry. Despite my lack of enthusiasm for the thumb-glide opening system on the Ultralock, I am quite content to open the knife in the more conventional manner. I found its performance to compete well in the production-liner/side-lock category. The Ultralock retails for \$74.95.

#### The "New" Recon Tanto

Perhaps the most striking product for 1992 is the Recon Tanto. Made in the United States, the R-Tanto's 7-inch blade is ground from Carbon-V steel and protected from the general environment with a baked-on, black-epoxy powder coating. Cold Steel has mated the popular Tanto blade pattern with a comfortable Kraton handle found on the Survival Rescue Knife (SRK). A single guard (lower) is provided for an enhanced grip and adequate finger protection.

As with the SRK, the epoxy coating will wear and/or peel with hard use. It is sufficient as a defensive coating against corrosion, but a good cleaning and light oiling after use is always recommended. Cold Steel's Tanto blade pattern is meant primarily for close combat, and I classify the R-Tanto as a fighting knife.

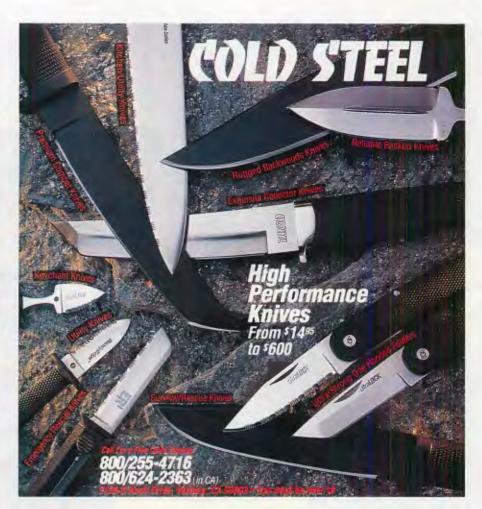
Its darkened blade guards against sun-flash or glint from artificial lighting during nighttime activities. Three SEAL teams recently selected a new groupissue combat knife with a similar coating process because of the same light reflection concerns.

The R-Tanto comes in a black nylon scabbard which uses two snap-'n'strap security systems to lock the knife into its carrier. Overall, this is an adequate sheath for most civilian uses. but I recommend a Kydex alternative.

I've recently had two such combat sheaths made for me by Tim Wegner of Blade-Tech (7406 S. Fife St., Tacoma, WA 98409; phone: 206-472-4942). Tim does superb work, with most of his scabbards going to the 2/ 75th Ranger Battalion and 1st Special Forces Group-both units stationed at nearby Fort Lewis. Wegner's jump scabbards have been local-unit-approved for military airborne operations.

Overall, the Carbon-V Recon Tanto is a successful blend of Tanto and SRK, with a more-than-reasonable suggested retail price of \$84.95.

For more information on Cold Steel's products, call them at: 1-800-255-4922.冥





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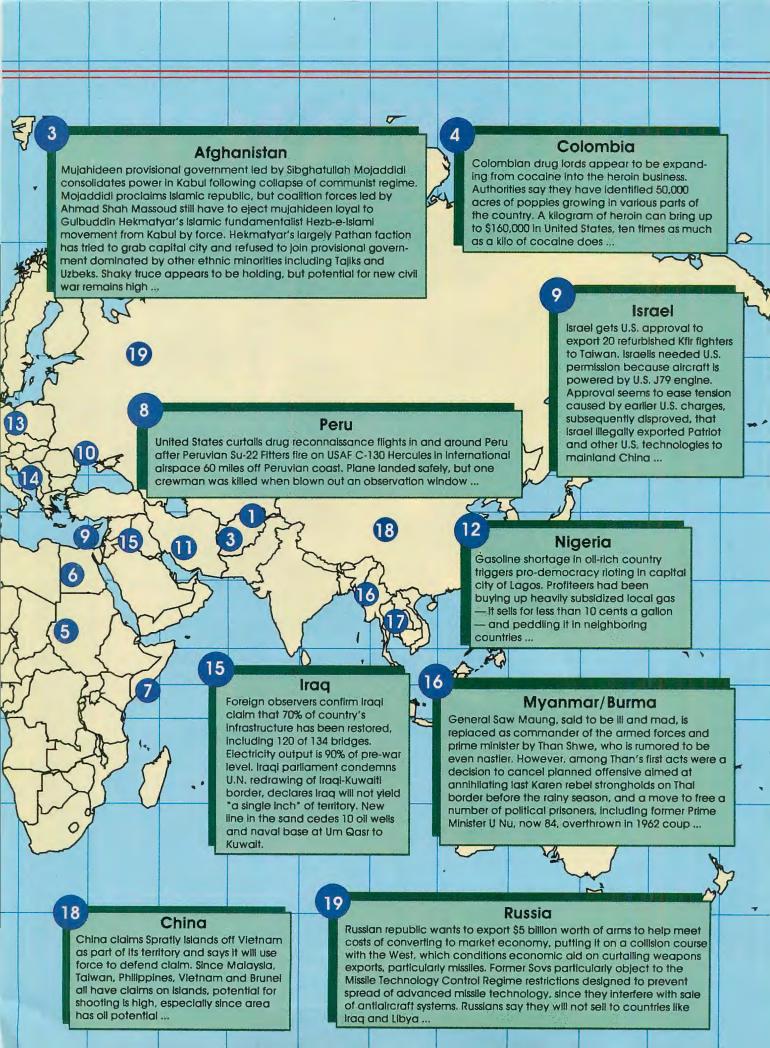
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#### **WORLD SITREP** Azerbaijan Sierra Leone Armenian forces take full control of disputed Nagorno-Karabakh Army officers take over country and force President region and launch attacks on Joseph Momoh to flee. Momoh's decision to parts of Azerballan proper, postpone multiparty elections, corruption that is causing Azeri government to seek awesome even by African standards, and crossborder raids by Charles Taylor's Liberian rebels Turkey's intervention .. sparked coup... Egypt Islamic fundamentalists kill 13 Coptic Christian villagers in vengeance for death of one of their members in a land dispute. Iranian-backed Islamic government scores success in Copts make up about 7 million major offensive against Sudan People's Liberation of Egypt's 50 million people ... Army (SPLA) in southern Sudan, capturing Bor, hometown of SPLA leader John Garang, and driving on rebel headquarters in far south. SPLA, most of whose members are Christians and animists, say they want secular government instead of Islamic republic in Sudan, although breakaway faction wants Somalia ndependence for south ... First significant food supplies in six months reach Mogadishu after relief agencies hire mercs to guard convoys. Red Cross has 2,600 gunmen working for it; U.N. is paying another 10,000 troops, 10 most of whom come from main factions fighting for control of Ukraine country ... Crimean peninsula wants to secede from Ukraine and form independent country/state. Russian/Ukrainian fight for Black Sea fleet heats up again - no end in sight ... Iran Iranian government expels all Arab inhabitants of Abu 13 Musa, a small strategically Germany important island command-German government allocates ing the entrance to the Persian Gulf. Control of the \$91 million for scrapping equipisland, seized by the late Shah ment of former East German of Iran when Brits withdrew National People's Army, whose order of battle included 15,000 from region in the 1970s, has long been disputed between tanks, armored fighting vehicles Iran and the United Arab and artillery pieces - most to be discarded ... Emirates ... Thailand Bosnia-Herzegovina Massive pro-democracy demonstrations continue in Declaration of independence from Bangkok and elsewhere despite military crackdown said to Yugoslavia by ethnically mixed region have killed scores and resulting in thousands of arrests. triggers land grab by Croatian and Protesters were demanding resignation of Prime Minister Serb factions; Moslem minority is big Suchinda Kraprayoon and a return to full parliamentary loser. More than 1,500 estimated killed democracy, with broader issues being end of Thai military's so far; major population transfer

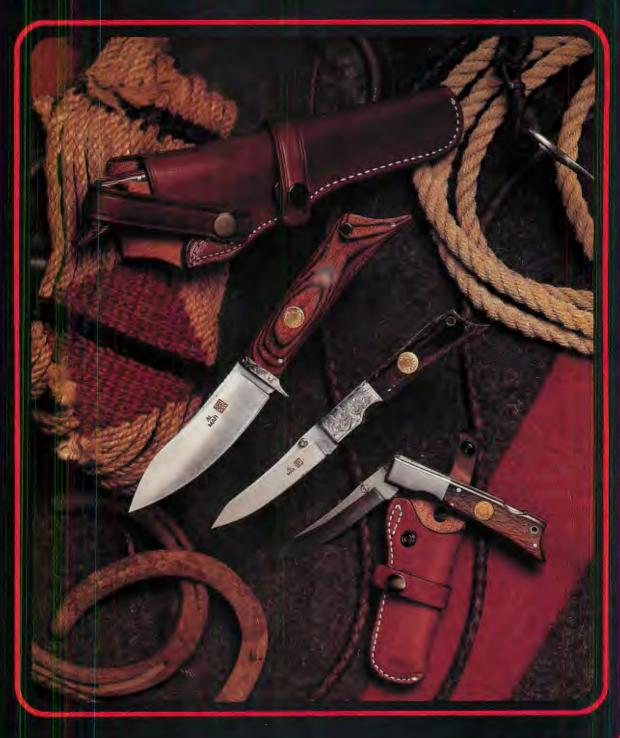
seems underway as capital city of Sarajevo is hammered by Serbian

artillery ...

control of the country and rampant corruption ...



## GUNSTOCK



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#### FLAK

#### **GUN GESTAPO**

I read your article "Gun Gestapo" (June '92) with great interest. There was a case in Florida where customs tore apart a tractor-trailer on the highway because they had received a tip. There was nothing in the rig and they just left the old guy on the highway with his parted truck.

Then in Deerfield Beach, Florida, the BATF [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms] somehow got involved with a drug bust where the suspect was reported to have a cache of automatic assault-type weapons. The suspect was shot in the back and killed by automatic fire from the BATF. It turned out that the dead man was nothing more than a janitor at the high school who was being framed by a snitch. He was just a "Spic," so who cares? That was the attitude of BATF. The family is still trying to get straight answers from the government.

Are we going to abandon our tradition of law and order and kill people on the word of some drug-crazed snitch? Are we going to use Gestapo tactics now to settle suspicion? Something is wrong with the government — real wrong.

Carl Jimenez Houma, Louisiana

There is no excuse for the activities of the BATF, IRS, "drug cops," etc., in the increasing number and severity of incidents such as those committed against Lawmaster in Tulsa last December. Measured, commonsense reaction is called for, and swiftly.

Since the man in charge is known,

he should be immediately forced to the damaged home and kept there until it is repaired to the owner's and occupant's satisfaction.

If we don't respond soon and punish all people responsible for such atrocities, we'll shortly be behind barbed wire or in the grave. When bullies are allowed to get away with atrocities, the atrocities will increase in frequency and severity. That's common sense.

It's time to take a lesson from our founding fathers. When the government came to Concord and Lexington to confiscate private firearms, we the people allowed the government troops the first shot. Then the people chopped the bums to pieces.

Name Withheld Waynesburg, Pennsylvania

#### **ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE CRIMINALS**

Where in hell does Jim Morris come from by writing such a conglomeration of crap in his article "War Among the Lines and Shadows?" (June '92).

Hey Morris, these aren't "economic refugees." They are illegal aliens! They are breaking the law of the United States of America the minute they step on American soil. All police officers are sworn to uphold the laws of the U.S.A., so when they do not assist the Border Patrol in apprehending these illegal aliens, they are aiding and abetting criminals.

Please note that not a few of these "gentle, docile people" played a major role in looting, burning and killing

during the Los Angeles riots. According to the enclosed column by Washington Times writer Samuel Francis in the San Diego Union-Tribune (5/13/92), "more than 30% of the persons arrested were undocumented persons," a euphemism for illegal aliens.

Worst of all is Morris' impugning the U.S. Border Patrol by suggesting that they cut their agents out of the Border Area Robbery Force [BARF] out of cowardice. Bullshit! These guys and gals come under attack every day and night, and they are grossly understaffed.

As far as the BARF squad is concerned, I haven't heard much about them lately. Maybe they re back where they should be, on the streets of San Diego protecting American citizens, not illegal aliens.

Edwin O. Leonard San Diego, California

#### **REPORT ON RIOTS**

I suggest that SOF devote an entire issue to the recent riot in South Central Los Angeles. Please report on:

- 1. How the honest citizens of all colors were at the mercy of the mob for two days; for example, the police saw the truck driver, R. Denny, being beaten, and they drove away. Example: The deployment of the National Guard was delayed for 12 hours because they had no bullets.
- 2. What the honest citizens did to defend themselves. Example: The shoot-outs that Korean merchants engaged in with the mob after it became clear that they could expect no help from the authorities.
- How the gangs are now the community leaders of South Central Los Angeles.

Bill Bush

San Diego, California See Jim Morris' story, "War Zone Los Angeles" on page 52 of this issue.

#### **PROUD DAUGHTER**

You had an article called "Trapped in Iraq" (April '92). My dad is in that article. His name is Staff Sergeant Bruce Willard, (crew chief and minigunner) of MH-60 Blackhawk, Tail No. 971. I'm very proud of my dad and his friends for rescuing those men that were in trouble and needed help.

When my dad went, I was very upset for a long time. And when we would watch the news, it would say



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STATE

something about a Blackhawk helicopter down or something. I was afraid that my dad would never return.

And today I thank God for letting my dad and those men return home safely. And for the ones that didn't make it, I pray for their family and

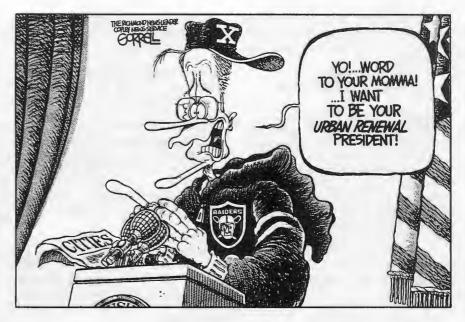
When I first saw the article, I didn't know that it was a big or serious thing, but after I read it I changed my mind quickly. Thank you for having this article so that I could read it and really know what happened. I'm 15 years old and in 9th grade at Southwest Junior High School.

> Kamera Willard Gastonia, North Carolina

#### WALK A MILE IN THE OTHER MAN'S **MOCCASINS**

In "Ambushed by CBS" (May '92) you speak of young FBI agents that were "mercilessly" gunned down by Leonard Peltier, but don't mention what his motives could have been.

You took the act out of context with its times. AIM [the American Indian Movement] wanted to change things and empower their people. If I lived in abject poverty and knew that two out of four of my children would not survive, and meanwhile tribal councils were driving fancy cars and dressing good, I would want another alternative, too.



The goon squad at that time was in full gear. Some 60 people had been killed and others were shot at, beaten or otherwise harassed. The people had no voice and the Bureau of Indian Affairs ruled with a heavy hand. The tribal council had the goon squad to enforce its political lines and it, in turn, danced to the drums in Washington.

Speaking out about transgressions of the pork-barrel politicos only brought a response from the goon squad in the form of a burneddown barn or bullets coming in through the window. Would you call for help to the same government who had put the people that were screwing you over in charge?

The next time you think of Leonard Peltier's so-called merciless act, think also of the merciless acts that drove him into what was really a desperate act. Walk a mile in the other man's moccasins before you judge him.

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I've subscribed to SOF for about 10 years, and this article was the last straw. I will not be renewing my subscription.

> Mitakuve Oyasin Boston, Massachusetts

#### **POW/MIA POLICY**

I think your readers would be interested in a government publication called An Examination of U.S. Policy Toward POW/MIAs. It can be obtained from the Minority Staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations, 452 Dirkson Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. It's free and it covers POW policy since World War I.

I must warn you, though, that the report is pretty depressing. It will make a Stephen King novel seem rather cheerful.

> Owen D. Camp Bronx, New York

#### WIMPY, WHINY GIRLY-MAN

This is in response to that wimpy, whiny girly-man, Joel Neale of Vernon, British Columbia ("FLAK," June '92): [Editor's note: Neale said that the French Foreign Legion is an "organized clusterfuck" and not worth anyone's

What kind of Hollywood bullshit glamour and glory did you expect? You

went in naive and idealistic - not good traits for a soldier. What makes you think you are Marine Corps material?

I got my Navy commission at Aviation Officers Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida. We bore the full brunt of Marine Corps drill instructors. Sissies like you DORed (Dropped On Request) the first few days.

Mr. Neale is typical of his generation. who all want to be superstars without serving an apprenticeship and paying their dues.

> Wavne Reveen Henderson, Nevada

#### SAVE SERE

I greatly enjoyed your article on Colonel Nick Rowe and the SERE program (April '92). I regard Rowe as an outstanding soldier and American. whose murder was a great loss to family and country.

An equal tragedy is to see the SERE program, the product of his years' experience as a soldier and as a POW in Vietnam, sliding toward such an ignoble end. It is pathetic that such dearly bought survival skills should be lost amid bureaucratic refuse, a mere checkpoint on the road to promotion.

G.M. Atwater Bishop, California

#### **OLD GUNS**

Peter Kokalis' articles are always enjoyable and "Italian Stallion" (June '92) is no exception.

Many old-time peace officers carried their old Colt thumb-busters well into the present century. Men like Frank Hamer, who gave this writer the thrill of his life some years back on television's "I've Got a Secret." or some such program. He was one of the men who wrote finis to the careers of Bonnie and Clyde. Asked by a panelist, "How many bullets did Clyde Barrow have in him?" he answered dryly, "About 40

The old single-action could be fired very fast and not by the Hollywood gun fanners. Elmer Keith used to refer to "slip shooting," where the trigger was held back and the hammer worked by the other thumb.

In a shooting match with Billy the Kid, the redoubtable and laconically loquacious Temple Houston, son of Sam Houston, plugged a chunk of chewing tobacco twice in rapid succession as it hurtled through the air. Billy had to plead nolo contendere after that, or so the story went.

> H.B. Weaver Pantego, North Carolina

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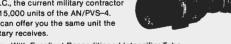
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#### **FULL AUTO**

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

here are more accessories available for the Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine gun than for any other military/police small arm ever fielded. It is this mountain of accoutrements - both Oberndorfmade and aftermarket — that turn the world's most dominant burp gun into a "system" and, in turn, partially accounts for its popularity and wide acceptance. Caveat emptor, as some of these ancillary products are little more than useless gimmicks. Here are a few that might merit your attention if you dress in black and sneak around dark buildings with an MP5.

The two most popular handguards for the MP5 are the so-called "tropical" unit made by H&K, and the Sure-Fire No. 628 made by Laser Products (Dept. SOF, 18300 Mount Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: 714-545-9444), which contains a highpower flashlight. Both are superior to the standard "slimline" handguard, as they protect the support hand from the receiver's chamber, which can get quite hot in this closed-bolt design.

As supplied, however, neither provides a sufficient gripping surface. This is no small consideration for lawenforcement SWAT teams or military special ops units, as high-anxiety environments frequently induce sweating while the support hand is dangerously close to the MP5's muzzle.

K.J. Ryan (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 16280, Pittsburgh, PA 15242-6280) has developed a textured material he custom-fits to these handguards. Ryan painstakingly hand-cuts a textured (checkered) piece of neoprene, which is then carefully bonded on the handguards using a proprietary highstrength adhesive.

On the Laser Products forearm, a "switch-block" device is first fitted around the rear portion of the tapeswitch, then bonded by Ryan with the same high-strength adhesive. Although I would not recommend continually dousing this textured neoprene and its bonding adhesive in a powerful solvent

like tetrachlorethylene, the mounting has proven to be quite secure over the six months we have been subjecting it to the abuse associated with tactical exercises.

#### Hold Fast & Blast

Both Ken Hackathorn and I recommend Ryan's Posi-Grip texture job without reservations of any kind. It costs \$22.50 for application to a tropical handguard, and \$25 for application to the Laser Products No. 628.

Ryan can also apply this textured neoprene to the buttplates of the MP5A2 for \$22.50, or to the end of a Colt AR-15/M16-series retractable buttstock (phenolic or aluminum) for \$20. It helps to secure the weapon to the shoulder of an operator wearing Nomex tactical coveralls and/or body armor, while providing an almost Velcro-like grip to the shoulder, no matter what type of clothing is worn. When applied to the CAR15-type buttplate, it eliminates the abrasive edge around the large buffer-tube opening.

Ryan leaves a small hole in the CAR15 buttpad to allow for the passage of air when collapsing or extending the stock. If you send him both an MP5A2 buttstock and tropical forearm at the same time, the price is only \$40 to treat both (add \$2.50 for a Laser Products No. 628 handguard). In my opinion, the Posi-Grip texture surface is well worth the modest price, even if you are armed with no more than the semiautomatic-only HK94 or an

> AR-15 Carbine. Posi-Grip texturing is also available for all of the Laser Products shotgun tactical-light assemblies as

> Another way to protect your support hand from sliding forward on an MP5 forearm and being ventilated with a two-shot

> > LEFT TO RIGHT: standard H&K MP5 flash hider, TAC-COMP muzzle compensator, and Tim Bixler's MP-5-type flash hider with his patented coupler.

#### **Burp Gun Boutique**

burst is to install the H&K MP5 flash hider. While it does its intended job, there are two muzzle devices I feel are superior, each in their own way and for different reasons.

Those desiring а muzzle compensator designed to minimize muzzle jump as much as possible would be well advised to acquire the MP5 TAC-COMP from Curtis Higgins of S&H Arms of Oklahoma Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 121, Owasso, OK 74055; phone: 918-272-9894). Machined from bar stock, and blackoxide finished, it costs \$59.95.

The TAC-COMP's port design was developed by Ken Hackathorn and gunsmith Wayne Novak - two individuals well known to SOF readers. This unit consists of an expansion chamber with a single oval port at the front end, and an H&K MP5-type mating mechanism at the rear (albeit with coarser knurling at the base than on the H&K-issue flash hider). This springloaded lever system is used to attach the H&K flash suppressor, BFA (blank firing attachment) and grenade launcher to all MP5s with "three-lug" factory barrels. When installed correctly, the oval port will be oriented at upper dead center, and gases vented out the top will drive the barrel downward.

#### Can Concerns

Muzzle devices usually address one of three parameters (quite often at the expense of one or both of the other two): flash signature, muzzle blast and muzzle climb.

Muzzle blast can be diminished by an efficient sound suppressor, which will often remove the flash signature as well (and sometimes, as in the case of AWC Systems Technology's TAC NINE, can also serve triple duty as an effective muzzle brake). In a subdued light or nighttime combat environment, the weapon's flash signature is by far the most important consideration, in my opinion. In fact, to avoid position disclosure, I have on several occasions refrained from firing small arms and resorted to hand grenades while operating in El Salvador.

Muzzle brakes (compensators) designed to reduce barrel-climb during burst sequences more often than not exaggerate the weapon's flash signature. Furthermore, if you are trained to fire only two-shot bursts with the MP5, muzzle jump and target reacquisition are not exactly overriding concerns.

Continued on page 66







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## COMBAT AND CARING

Prologue: In early March of this year, three American doctors associated with Refugee Relief International traveled to Thailand and Burma to instruct Karen physicians in battlefield surgical techniques at a Karen camp called Htoo Wa Lu. They were Dr. David Crowder, a surgeon from Gillette, Wyoming; Dr. Forrest Smith, a surgeon from San Francisco; and Dr. John Peters, Medical Director of Refugee Relief International, from Battle Mountain, Nevada. The following is an account of their stay with the embattled Karens, who are struggling for their very survival in a forgotten 44-year war against the brutal Burmese army.

t is eerily quiet as the three of us trudge up the hill with Dr. Singh on our first visit to the makeshift Karen hospital at Htoo Wa Lu. A cool morning mist shrouds the thatched-roof houses on each side of the path. Roads here in the Thai-Burmese jungle are few and far between. All travel here is by boat.

A stream runs through the middle of the camp. Two hundred meters down the hill it empties into the Moei River, which forms part of the border between Thailand and Burma. The hospital comes into view. It is built on stilts, as are all houses in this area, both for ventilation and for protection from monsoon floods.

We climb the stairs and take off our shoes at the door, as is the custom on entering a home in this part of the world. The hospital consists of three rooms. At one end of the building there is a small Operating Room (OR). Adjoining it is a limited supply and scrub area. The third room is a fairly large 40-bed ward, with 20 hand-hewn wooden beds on each side of a central aisle. The urinal is a hole cut into the floor at the foot of Bed 11.

All of the beds are filled; many men are grievously wounded. There is no pain medication, yet these men suffer and die without a whimper. In our two weeks with them, we never heard a moan.

#### **Incoming Rounds**

We begin our rounds. The men here vary in age from 12 to 70 years. Most are soldiers in the Karen army. Some are porters who carry food and supplies to the front line—only a few kilometers away. Others are simple peasants who happened to get caught in a crossfire, or were hit by a stray mortar round, or who stepped on one of the many land mines that litter the area.

Many of the mines were planted more than 20 years ago, and no one seems to know where most of them are. Battle lines change rapidly. Different Karen units come and go through the area. They all plant mines, but no one maps the minefields. The Burmese army has little problem with the mines when they assault Karen positions, as they force Karen civilians — men, women and children — to walk ahead of them as human shields or minesweepers.

An elderly gentleman, a farmer, lies in the first bed. He has a large, gaping hole on the top of his head; his brain is exposed. X-rays taken on an old field-portable X-ray unit at the hospital show pieces of metal and bone driven deep into his brain. He has been here two weeks, comatose but continuing to breathe on his own. Like many others here, he will soon die. A wrinkled old woman, his wife, lies asleep on a mat at the foot of his bed. She has been here for two weeks also, refusing to leave her husband's side.

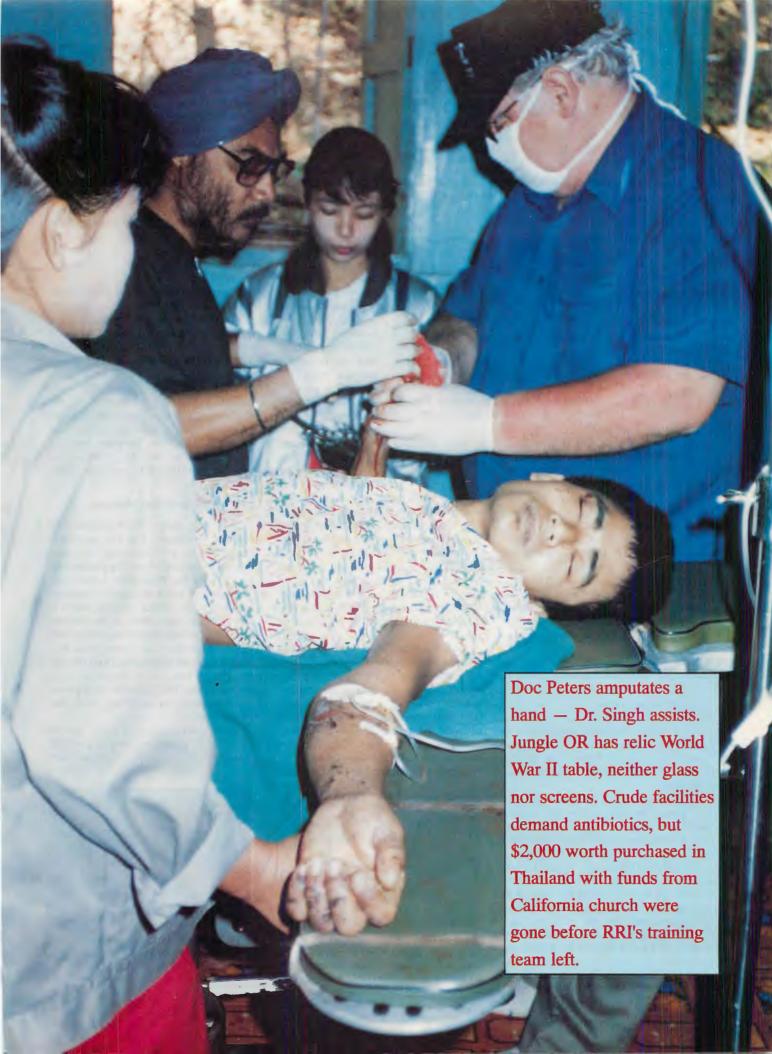
She wakes up as Forrest examines her husband. We can see a glimmer of hope in her eyes when she is told we are all doctors from America. But we can't do anything for him in this primitive facility here in the jungle. She too will suffer in silence until he dies.

In the next bed is a young soldier who stepped on a mine four days ago. We make a diagnosis even before we unwrap his mutilated leg. We recognize the odor of dead and rotting mice — the smell of gangrene. His entire foot and halfway up his leg is swollen and colored greenish black. He is sweating and pale and has a rapid pulse. All these signs show the gangrene has entered his bloodstream. But he is lucky. David will amputate his leg later this morning, and we have brought with us potent antibiotics purchased in Bangkok with money donated to the Karen cause by a small church in Sunnyvale, California: He will live.

A nurse suddenly interrupts and points to a bed at the other end of the hospital. There seems to be some commotion there, as other nurses becken us to come to the bed. We find a 16-year-old boy gasping for breath. His

#### SOF's Medical Team Coaches Karen "Doctors"

Text & Photos by Dr. John Peters, M.D.



normally brown face has taken on a bluish-white cast. His pulse is racing at 160 beats per minute. He has a tiny puncture wound on his right upper chest. Yesterday, a Burmese 122mm mortar round exploded about 60 feet down the slope below his position on a ridge known as Sleeping Dog Hill. We listen to his chest as an X-ray is taken. He has a tension hemopneumothorax. His chest is filling with blood and his right lung has collapsed. Unless something is done, he will die.

#### Emergency Surgery

David barks orders to the nurses as

Forrest and I head for two small rooms at the other end of the hospital. Forrest selects instruments — luckily we have brought chest tubes and one-way valves with us. The old hospital has none. I help the technician ready the operating room.

The boy is hurriedly placed on the OR table, an ancient relic from World War II. What passes for an operating light is held together by used IV (intravenous) tubing. Time is everything now. David injects a small amount of Novocain into the skin of the boy's chest. The boy winces but utters not a sound as David's scalpel slashes into his chest wall.

Forrest hands him the chest tube (a plastic tube about one-third the diameter of a garden hose). David shoves the tube deep into the boy's chest. "Watch out," he murmurs as blood mixed with air whooshes out of the tube and splatters against the clapboard wall 6 feet away. "A little tension there," he states as blood now pours steadily out of the tube into a basin a nurse is holding.

"Blood looks good. No clots," Forrest says. Blood clots from a chest tube means the victim is still bleeding actively. In this case, it would have forced us to open the boy's chest and find and tie off the bleeder.

We all breathe a sigh of relief as I attach one end of the one-way Heimlich valve to the chest tube, and the other to a drainage bag. The boy is now breathing much easier and his color is improving. He smiles widely and nods his thanks to us as he is carried back to his bed. Two liters of blood, more than one-third of his entire blood supply, will drain out of the tube in the next 24 hours. But he will live.

In each of the 40 beds we find similar



Having unloaded their wounded, these troops head back to the field.



A mine injury arrives at hospital. The doctors will amputate. Man at right holds patient's heel.

completely blind.

No Shortage Of Suffering

wounds. There are

two men who have

avulsed eyes - their

eves have been

pushed out of their

sockets and are lying

on their upper

cheeks. One of them

suffered a mine

accident. The other

was hit with a rifle

bullet that penetrat-

ed the front of his

skull and went out

his right temple,

without apparently

doing much brain

damage. He has

been here for two

months with one eve

lying on his cheek

knows how to

remove an eye. Both

men will have their

injured eyes removed to prevent

infection in their

good eyes, which

would render them

no one here

The injuries go on and on, day-in and day-out. We wonder how such a small army of less than 5,000 men can sustain these kinds of losses. Each day, we operate on several men — most are amputations. We rapidly use up all the antibiotics brought with us. Now we have to depend on penicillin, streptomycin and good surgical technique to prevent infections. Most of the wounded are brought in during the late afternoon, after the day's fighting has ended.

Litters are fashioned from their own ponchos and a length of bamboo cut from the jungle where they were hit. They are carried down to the river in this manner and put on a boat (a long, shallow-draft boat with an exposed Chevy engine mounted aft and a 20-foot drive shaft extending out the rear). Then they are brought down the river to Htoo Wa Lu. We frequently operate late into the night.



Another mine victim arrives at hospital, wrapped in his poncho. Most war injuries here are caused by mines sewn, then lost, over several decades of struggle.

At dusk, thousands of mosquitoes fly through the open hospital windows. There is no glass or screen in Htoo Wa Lu. The mosquitoes carry a type of malaria that is resistant to all drugs except old intravenous quinine. If one of us gets sick, we will have to somehow be taken back to a Thai hospital to be treated. There is no quinine at Htoo Wa Lu. The only electricity at the hospital is supplied by an old generator that functions only part of the time.

Late one night, a young boy is brought in. A bullet has entered his right arm and blown away most of his elbow. The arm must be amputated. Halfway through the operation, the generator quits and we are left in total darkness. We finish the operation with penlights clenched between our teeth.

On our third morning in camp we hear, then see, our first Burmese aircraft. This is the first year the Burmese are using tactical air support to soften up Karen positions prior to their ground assaults. The Karens have little to counter this new threat. They have no ground-to-air missiles, no antiaircraft guns. Their only air defenses are single-mount .50-caliber Browning machine guns, which are relatively ineffective against the fast-moving MiG-23s the Burmese have just purchased from China. The Burmese also use Yugoslavian-built propeller-driven aircraft (PCs).

#### **Surgery And Shooting**

The PCs carry 30mm cannon and 7.62mm mini-guns. The jets carry 500-pound bombs. Every morning thereafter, as soon as the mist clears, the planes come back. First, the PCs come in to strafe. Their cannon and mini-guns are answered by a single .50-caliber machine gun in an emplacement high above us on Sleeping Dog Hill, the high point that protects both us and Manerplaw, the Karens' main base 3km downriver. If Sleeping Dog Hill falls, the whole area is in danger of being overrun. After the PCs make their passes, the jets swoop in dropping their 500-pound bombs.

As they streak in, they too are greeted by the single gunner on Sleeping Dog Hill. Strangely, we see few direct casualties



After generator quit, amputation of arm continues under penlights held by Dr. Smith.

#### MR. LU, THE LEG MAKER

Working with the Karens in Burma, we learned that soldiers there serve without pay. And when disabled they receive no pension, no disability pay, no social security. The most common injuries we saw were caused by antipersonnel land mines. We were amputating several irreparably injured limbs (usually legs) every day. Wondering what happened to these men if and when they recovered, we asked one of the doctors we were training and he replied, "Mr. Lu makes new arms and legs for our people. Would you like to see his factory?"

The next morning during a lull in the fighting, we boarded one of the Karens' shallowdraft boats and headed upriver. We turned off into a narrow channel that wound its way

deep into the jungle. We anticipated seeing a shiny "prosthesis lab" donated by some rich medical foundation and staffed by well-trained Westerners. We had seen such places in many parts of the world — El Salvador, Pakistan, Peru — just to mention a few.

Not so in Karen country, however. We were fast learning that *no one* was helping the Karens. What we found was a house on stilts beside the river. Outside, three BK (below-the-knee) amputees were dozing in the sun as they awaited the day's "fittings." On the ground around the house were a couple of old worn-out rubber tires, pieces of scrap metal and a few teak logs. There was a drying buffalo hide nailed to the side of the hut.



We were met by an energetic young man with a crude, but apparently quite workable, artificial leg. His prosthesis consisted of a beautifully carved teak lower leg and foot. A water-buffalo-rawhide sleeve was fitted to the upper part of the wooden leg with hand-beaten, carefully polished strips of scrap metal. A piece of tire tread was affixed to the sole of the wooden foot. All had been meticulously fitted together by a true craftsman. The man wearing the artificial limb was Mr. Lu — he had made his own leg.

He literally ran ahead of us up a 60-degree earthen staircase carved out of the jungle hillside. As we reached the hilltop, we saw his "factory" — a one-room clapboard building. On one side were his tools — chisels, hammers, wrenches, screwdrivers and hand drills. Rows of plaster-of-Paris patterns for stump limbs hung from the two other walls. Beneath these were wooden legs in various stages of completion.

He has developed an ingenious way of making his prostheses. First he takes a plaster impression of the amputee's stump. Using this as a mold, he makes a simulated stump casting. To this he fits the artificial leg until it is nearly perfect. He then refines it on the amputee himself, teaching the amputee how to use it in the process.

The artificial leg is quite heavy, because it is made of solid teak and metal, but these young soldiers use their limbs as efficiently as any fancy multi-thousand-dollar limbs in our technological society. Using a log, some scrap metal, old tires and buffalo hide, Mr. Lu the "leg maker" achieves results as effective for his amputees as many of us could with all our money and technology.

These people deserve our help. Anyone involved in making prostheses, who would like to donate equipment, tools, materials or expertise, is more than welcome. I think anyone spending a non-paid, two-week "vacation in the jungle" with Mr. Lu would find, as the three of us did, that he and the Karens have more to teach us about life and its value than anything we might teach the Karens.

- J. P.

from the air assaults. Most of the airattack victims are farmers and porters caught out in the open who, fleeing the airplanes, step on hidden mines. The soldiers themselves are well dug in and suffer few aircraft-caused injuries. Every day the planes come back and every day they are answered by the single gunner on Sleeping Dog Hill. We all wonder how



Mission accomplished: This soldier loses an arm, but retains his life.

long the lone gunner can hold out. We also hear the far-off sounds of Karen troops firing down the opposite side of Sleeping Dog Hill at charging Burmese ground troops. While we are there the Karens' position holds.

#### The Karens' Caring Cadre

We find that the three doctors we have come to instruct are all excellent physicians, although an odd lot. One was a Burmese student who survived the 1988 massacre of 1,800 unarmed and defenseless fellow students at Rangoon; they were machine-gunned in the city squares by the Burmese army during a non-violent protest. Having just finished medical school, he had escaped to the jungle and joined the Karens.

The student has no surgical experience, but learns quickly under the tutelage of Forrest and David. The second doctor is a 60-year-old-plus Burmese gentleman who

had been a world-class marathon runner at one time. He also joined the Karens in protest against the Burmese regime in Rangoon. And he, too, has no surgical experience.

The third doctor is Dr. Singh, a Sikh from India who married a Karen girl and has devoted his life to help care for her people. He has minimal surgical experience, but rapidly learns the new techniques we teach him.

An Australian physician also happens by while we are there. He graduated from medical school two years before, and became a Buddhist after a stay in a Bangkok monastery, where he learned of the Karens' plight. He has come to offer his help.

#### **Deserving Friends**

The Karens we met were a kind and gentle people. Most were farmers or miners and, strangely, most were Christians — Baptists, Seventh-Day Adventists and a few Catholics. Here is a Christian nation surrounded by peoples which are mainly Buddhist, animist or Moslem. They were betrayed by the British, as we betrayed many of our own allies in Southeast Asia after Vietnam.

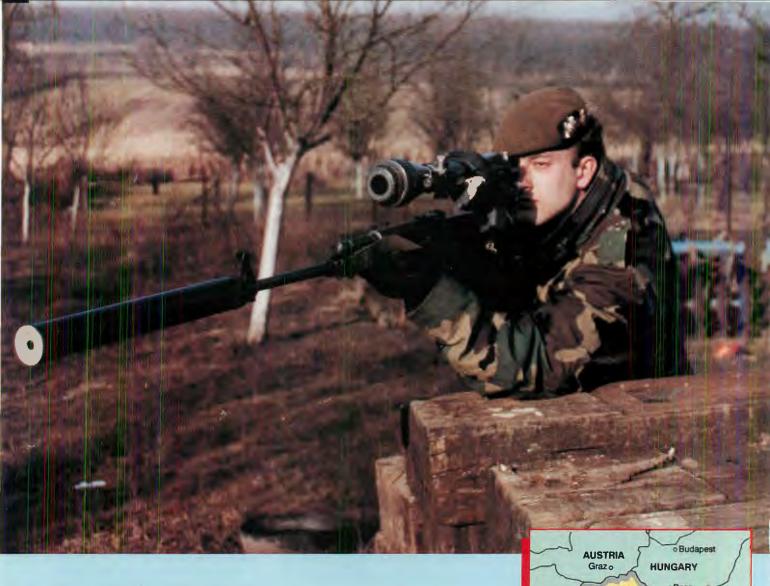
Burma was a British colony prior to World War II. In a treaty signed by Great Britain with the Karens at the beginning of World War II, the Karens were promised autonomy in exchange for fighting with the Allies against the Japanese. Thousands of Karens fought and died alongside British, American, Indian and Australian troops.

Many Allied pilots, shot down flying the "hump" between Burma and China, were hidden and secreted out of Japanese-held areas back to Allied lines by the Karens. Whole Karen villages were tortured, then executed when suspected of hiding Allied airmen. The Karens pride themselves in the fact that though many men, women and children died horribly, they never gave up a single pilot to the Japanese.

A Major Richard Rhodes James, who served with the airborne Chindits force under General Windgate, wrote after the war, "we trusted these villagers absolutely and never found our trust misplaced. The whole country was covered by an intelligence system which guaranteed our safety. Day after day they looked after us, guiding, warning, advising. Their food had been pillaged by the Japs, but they gave generously of their scarcity. What had these men to gain? We gave them a little money and parachute cloth, but from the Japs they got death. As we passed through the villages they implored us to stop. 'Stay with us, or if you can't do that, come back soon. The Japs will kill us for this.' And they did."

It is estimated the Karens killed more than 12,500 Japanese troops as the Allies

Continued on page 66



## Bushwhacked Balkans

Author's AO for his three-month tour in Croatia.

KARLQVAC

UGOSLA Belgrade o

OMAREVO

**Internationals Catch Serbs in Crossfire** 

Text & Photos by "Skippy" Hampstead

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#### ZAGREB, CROATIA:

y watch showed 1330. My contact was late, but I decided to stay put for a while longer. Sitting around an ex-JNA magazin (barracks) in central Zagreb, dressed in civilian clothes and surrounded by Croatian national guardsmen, I probably didn't look as conspicuous as I felt.

Since being dropped off, I had watched young men also in civvies come in, sign up and collect their Kalashnikov rifles. Surely it can't be that easy, I thought: I was right.

When it became clear I had been forgotten, I tried to make it to the "International Brigade." Five hours later I had reached Runylist, a former tourist hotel converted into a staging camp for Internationals - I think primarily to get them out of the way. Located in the mountains outside Zagreb, it was essentially a bad joke more than a military base.

Being shared between the dozen or so men there was one World War II-vintage Mauser K98k rifle. With few exceptions, the volunteers there were just as bloody useless. Only one was a professional soldier. Here I was, former Australian army, hoping to find a group of experienced and trained soldiers, only to be confronted by a bunch of buffoons! But it was here that I met my companion for the next three months. A Scot named "Rose" was one of the few pros I was to meet in Croatia; we became inseparable from then on.

Rose and I almost immediately started an intensive training program for the men. It was apparent that enthusiasm and experience had kept them alive so far, but we also knew these factors alone were no substitutes for good training.

#### **Three Faces Of Warriors**

It didn't take us long to classify the three types of men at the front: First, there were the guys who didn't give a toss; they were more than happy just doing their guard and returning to their billets (private houses) to continue drinking it was damn near impossible to find a Croat who didn't stink of alcohol and wasn't half wasted.

Second, there were men whose main concern was to look good. Judging from what I saw, I'd say they watched too much television: armed to the teeth, grenades hanging from their belts (a pet peeve of mine), carrying the biggest knives they could find, and whatever berets they fancied - instant Para, instant Green Beret.

And lastly, the minority - the men who knew the day would come when they would face a ruthless enemy, knowing there was nowhere to run.

Above Left: "Rose" — Scottish trooper, draws down on a target with his soundsuppressed M76 sniper rifle in 7.92x57mm — Yugoslavian variant of the Soviet Dragunov.

Weapons were a status symbol over there, and much time was spent poring over what type of Kalashnikov you had. The different versions available were rated in this order, from best to worst: the "Zastavar," of Yugoslavian (Serbian) manufacture, fitted with the trombone (rifle grenade) attachment; then, Hungarian types; Chinese (although very rare); then Czech Vz-58s (all with folding stocks). The least popular was my trusted Romanian model, but after I sawed off the forward pistol grip, I had no complaints. Within four weeks I was given a Zastavar still covered with packing grease.

#### Arms And The Man

When I heard the folklore behind the Romanian's lack of popularity, I had to laugh: " ... after 300 or 400 rounds the barrel gets so hot it droops." I thought, when are these guys ever going to be in a sustained firefight for that long? Anybody fool enough to fire 10-plus magazines nonstop might wash out a soft barrel - but melt it?

I am an SLR (Self-Loading Rifle, i.e., FN FAL) man, and when I was given a selective-fire Argentine version with folding stock (which was much stronger than the AK), I was over the moon. This was given to me as a present from the company commander just before I was due to go out on a patrol. From there on in, it was said you always knew how much of the fighting Skippy was doing, because amid the rat-tat-tat you could hear the more powerful thump-thump of my SLR.

#### Christmas In Komarevo

Just before Christmas we moved to Komarevo, southeast of Sisak. It was a bit quieter than our first AOs, partially because of the cease-fire which supposedly came into effect about Christmastime not that this counted for bugger all. Along with a few trusted Croats, we were doing almost all the patrolling to our front (approximately 2km wide), but the terrain limited us a lot.

The two front lines were on opposing ridges, with woodland on either hill and a small area of open ground between them. "Can't go across that," we were told. "Too dangerous." Well, if we were Croats or Chetniks [Serbian irregulars], maybe, but Rose and I were professional soldiers who knew what we were doing, so it represented a challenge and not an obstacle.

Sneaking over to kill a few sentries and bring back their hats and weapons was our version of psych warfare - we loved it. This may have been in part responsible for the prices on our heads which according to reliable sources was double that offered for any other International in Croatia.

We had a free hand as far as doing what we thought needed to be done. Body counts are important to the Croats, both on individual and unit levels. The longer we were there, the higher our body count went, and the more freedom we received - along with better weapons, such as my SLR. As far as our freedom, it extended only to the company level, as the higher in the chain of command things went, the more we ran into political problems.

Rose and I were quite prized. For Internationals, we became sought after and popular, due to our reputations along the whole length of the line having been highly exaggerated. Everybody had been in action with Skippy and Rose! Our unit, 57 Samb (independent) Battalion was autonomous, much to the distress of the self-appointed generals in the regular national guard.

Author patrols on gray Balkan winter day, carrying folding-stock Yugo AK with integral grenade launcher.





Around the holidays, we would send greetings with rifle fire, and the enemy would return the courtesy with tanks. Tanks! How bloody unsporting of them. One morning we received delivery of a 60mm mortar and a case of ammo. We bracketed their position on the ridge with a couple rounds, then gave them the whole box and buggered off. Happy New Year, Cheedo!

We were under almost continual sniper fire (he must have been a fat bastard, as he always broke for meals). Rose and I were of the opinion the sniper was merely trying to keep us pissed off — maybe lure one or more of us into no-man's-land for a clean shot. We had taken casualties, and although there was no one was killed, pressure began mounting from above for us to get that sniper. We came up with a plan.

We were to go across no-man's-land at dawn or before, depending on when

"Rose" and Croatian sniper at trenches along front lines. Most time is spent patrolling — and waiting.

everyone was up and ready, then set up a three-way ambush in the opposite wood line. It was to consist of eight men — two snipers to kill their man and bring the sniper's mates running down the hill, to be greeted by myself and another man. We were to be backed up by a cover group in the trees on our side of the line, to ensure we could get back to the comparative safety of our own tree line.

It was a good plan, and it worked — sort of. What we hadn't counted on was "yippeee" shooters — men who fire their weapons for the sake of it — so at first, no Serbs took any notice of the firing inside their perimeter. We arrived with no problems, and took up our positions just as dawn was breaking.

After lying in the snow for about two hours, which is just about the limit in those conditions, our concentration was slipping. We had no commo, so we had to wait until our sniper target came back before we could move; it was a matter of sticking it out until then, and it seemed he wasn't going to show.

# Varmint Rifles At War

Suddenly, the crunch of feet on cold snow snapped me to full concentration again. That familiar, but dreaded, knot in my stomach started to tighten as my heart raced. Our snipers were also at the limit of their endurance — keeping in mind we were in enemy territory under conditions well below zero degrees, in broad daylight.

The enemy sniper hadn't even taken up position when the high-powered cracks of two .22-250s broke the silence. He was dead. Only when I saw the bright red stain in the snow did I pinpoint him. He, like us, was wearing a white sniper suit.

Then we waited. Our two snipers sneaked back to our lines another way, as planned. Now it was our turn, but nothing happened. No enemy came to see what was happening. I looked at my partner, amazed we hadn't had the response we anticipated. Give it five more minutes, I told him, using hand signals. By now my breakfast was longing to



Semi-relic T-34/85 at former JNA barracks in Karlovac. In nearby shed sat six more in first-class condition, ready to roll out the gate and fight. Thus far, most armor "engagements" in this war have seen tanks used as artillery against infantry targets.

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come out. As nothing was happening after a few minutes more, I gave the signal to clear out and head back.

I had started to relax again, my concentration wandering from the large kill zone before us, when we heard a yell from the houses. It was obviously a question when there was no reply the caller disappeared, only to return with a companion. They started to walk quite casually down the steep hill toward us. Immediately we both reverted back to our original state, rock still, looking over our sights. I broke out in a sweat; my heart was beating so loud I was sure it would give us away. But we were positioned behind natural hard cover, so I reassured myself we couldn't be seen.

# **Hand-Held Artillery**

After a moment's thought, I pulled out a frag and with a nod my No. 2 man followed suit. We let the men pass by. They were about 10 feet below us when they saw their sniper and, as it dawned on them what had happened, they bolted back up the hill toward us screaming their lungs out. Our grenades exploded in unison and flung one man back down the hill. The reason I used grenades is obvious, Explosions within their perimeter were bound to draw the Serbs out, and these did.

The chaos that followed was to our advantage - they came running down the hill singly or in pairs, some stupid enough to forget their weapons. They were coming so fast that those who managed to find cover were not capable of returning effective fire immediately. Amidst the smoke from our own weapons and grenades, I soon realized we had bitten off more than we could chew, so we backtracked into the dead ground behind us as the volume of return firing was steadily growing. Judging from the amount of yelling on the hilltop, there were more men on the way.

We ran like hell, wondering what our cover group was doing, but as we reached

"Skippy" directs searching fire on Serb

lines with Yugo M53, variant of World

War II-era German MG-42

Combing world arms markets, Croatians picked up a quantity of Ultimax-100 Mark III light machine guns from Chartered Industries of Singapore this one carried by a Croatian national quard MP.

the tree line to one side, our cover group opened up and all hell broke loose. All four men of the cover group were armed with heavy-barrel Kalashnikovs on bipods, with drum magazines of 75 rounds each, and every man had two magazines. They did a good enough job of suppressing fire from the opposite bank that we had little difficulty in running 100 meters across open ground - not to say we weren't under fire and I wasn't scared shitless and running on adrenalin!

Once in the wood line we regrouped about 20 meters into the trees, just in time to be safe from the 14.5mm machine gun on top of the opposite hill to our left, which opened up and sprayed our whole area. Our only serious casualty was caused by this gun - one man was hit in the arm;



to mention bloody cold ones — we humped back to our lines knowing the operation was a success. It caused a bit of a panic among the HQ staff because we were about an hour late, which along with the volume of fire both outgoing and incoming had added to their concern.

This turned out to be my last operation. I fell badly ill with a flu virus not long after. Yet I had already made my decision to leave, as the war had dragged on and gotten bogged down. This, along with the political infighting, convinced me I had done my bit and couldn't really accomplish much more by staying. Three months' training and fighting on several front lines was enough.

My decision was further concreted by the company commander and I having a run-in about pay. Neither Rose nor myself had been paid during our three months in Croatia, even though the expected pay was only equivalent to about £100 (U.S. \$160). That's 4,600 Hrvaski dinars per month, which is sufficient to live where one carton of cigs costs 300 dinars and all public transport for soldiers is free (everything on the front line is free, anyway).

Anyone who expects big money fighting in Croatia can forget it. High pay may have been the case at the beginning of the war, which was admittedly one of the main reasons I went in the first place, but it soon became obvious we were fighting on a promise. What kept me there was the character and loyalty of the Croatians with whom I served. Individually, as people, they are great guys - but as soldiers, in general, they couldn't fight sleep.

Within a half-hour of our falling out over my suggestion that the army should at least pay for my fare back to England, I had my gear packed, webbing over my shoulder and was walking up the road. I made it no more than 50 meters uphill when my commander came driving up after me, offering me all kinds of things to keep me there, but I knew the score.

# **Going Home**

Still very ill, I made it to Zagreb by nightfall and spent the night in the home of one of my men. The following morning he arrived with some money, around 2,000 dinars, and I got on the bus to Ljubljana for my flight out through Slovenia.

I knew of the Slovenian law concerning wearing uniforms, but as I had no civilian clothes, I didn't have a choice and didn't really care. In due course the bus was stopped at the border, and it stayed there for an hour while we argued. I was an oddball and they weren't sure what to do with me, so I made it easier for them.

"I am going to Ljubljana, and I really don't give a monkey's about your stupid law!" I announced.

"You must go back to Croatia - you cannot enter wearing uniform."

"Bugger off - I'm tired, I'm ill, I'm

Continued on Page 71

# BOMBS OVER B Putting Saddam Down for the Cou

by Dale B. Cooper

The Gulf War against Iraq began with a bang at 0238 on 17 January 1991. Apache helicopters from the 101st Airborne Division blasted two key Iraqi radar sites with Hellfire missiles, rockets and cannons.

Minutes later, a Stealth fighter dropped a 2,000-pound laser-guided bomb through the roof of the Iraqi air-force interceptor operations center, a key link between border radar sites and air defense HQ in Baghdad.

These attacks blinded Saddam Hussein and opened a 12km-wide corridor through which hundreds of Coalition aircraft, including two waves of F-117A Nighthawks and F-16C Falcons, flew to targets in downtown Baghdad and the surrounding area.

s he approached the target, Lieutenant Colonel Billy Diehl experienced a sense of déjà vu.

Nearly two decades ago, Diehl had felt the same sensation in his stomach, the same tightness as he approached an enemy target.

One minute after the RWR (Radar Warning Receiver) in his F-16C lit up like a pinball machine, the sky ahead filled with AAA (Anti-Aircraft Artillery), just like it did in July 1972 when Diehl approached Hanoi in his F-4E. We saw at least 1,000 rounds of 37mm and 57mm Triple-A bursting below us," he recalled.

But the sight of three SA-2s (Sovietbuilt surface-to-air missiles) being launched to the left of his formation really tripped the alarm in Diehl's mind. "It was the same missile the North Vietnamese fired at me almost 20 years ago," he said, "and on the same ballistic trajectory."

This time, instead of escorting fighterbombers deep into North Vietnam in the back seat of a Phantom, Diehl was up front in a Falcon leading a strategic raid deep into Iraq on the first day of the Gulf War. The target was a military airfield 30 miles northwest of Baghdad, one of the most-heavily defended military installations in Iraq.

The mission was to crater runways and taxiways to prevent the Iraqi air force from getting airborne. But Colonel Raymond P. Huot, commander of the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing (TAC) from Shaw Air Force Base (AFB) in South Carolina, had also developed contingency plans in the event the strike force was jumped by MiGs from other airfields in northern Iraq.

"We were convinced that it was going to be an air battle, the likes of which we'd never seen," Diehl said, yet the raid turned out to be a "milk run," thanks to the earlier strike by Apache helicopters and an F-117A Stealth fighter that destroyed Iraq's ability to detect incoming aircraft.

These strikes and the ones that followed for the next 41 days began the systematic and progressive dismemberment of Iraq's military and political command. "This was the most heavily defended place on earth," Diehl noted, rattling off the list of Soviet-supplied defensive systems the Iraqis possessed, "SAM missiles, SA-2s, -3s and -6s."

# Smashing Saddam's War Machine

Diehl was also concerned about the American I-Hawks Saddam had captured in Kuwait: sophisticated versions of Hawk missiles used by the Marine Corps to defeat attacking enemy aircraft. Saddam also had AAA to rival anything the North Vietnamese had around Hanoi.

"It made Hanoi look easy," said Diehl, recalling how the Triple-A was so heavy over Baghdad you could almost walk ou it. But the Iraqis were firing blindly — the Apaches had poked out their electronic eyes.

The PM package pushed across the Iraqi border a half-hour before sunset. Ten minutes into Iraq, an airborne warning and control aircraft (AWACS) warned Diehl "company was coming," as a couple of MiG-29 Fulcrums turned toward his formation.

Diehl thought there would be a beehive of MiGs over the airfield, but they never rose to meet his strike force of 60 aircraft, comprised of 32 F-16C bombers,

# AGHDAD nt Photo credit: AP Wide World

16 F-15C fighters for air cover, eight F-4s (Wild Weasels) and four EF-111s (Ravens) for electronic jamming of enemy missiles. Each of the F-16s on the package carried two 2,000-pound iron (unguided) bombs, which were used to crater the runways and taxiways.

Unlike the low-flying Brits in their Tornadoes who got chewed up by AAA over Iraqi airfields, the 17th TFS and the 33rd TFS from Shaw, along with pilots from their sister squadron (10th TFS) from Hahn AFB, Germany, all dropped their ordnance from well above the AAA, thus avoiding being shot down.

"Triple-A was like I've never seen. It would just eat you alive down there," Diehl recalled, "In a war like this, which could have developed into a war of attrition, we couldn't afford to lose a couple of airplanes per mission — that's why we stayed above 10,000 feet, away from the Triple-A."

Captain Gary Cooper flew the No. 2 slot in Diehl's four-ship, about 1,000 feet from the strike leader. Although the MiG airfield was a massive complex, pilots like Cooper were well prepared and knew precisely where to drop their bombs.

"Hey Two, can you see it?" Diehl had asked by radio.

"Yeah, Boss, it's right there underneath the clouds," Cooper replied.

"Okay, one's in," Diehl radioed while dipping his needle-nosed F-16 into a 45degree dive and putting the pipper (bomb sight) on his target as the airfield rushed up on him at Mach 1.2.

Coming off the target, Diehl grunted hard, fighting to stay conscious while his body absorbed six or seven Gs and he jinked clear of the AAA that was rapidly filling the sky.

Cooper was also going "ballistic," with afterburners aglow by the time his bombs hit, but looking back over his shoulder he could see 37mm AAA bursting "like popcorn" over the airfield as a long line of F-16s came down the chute to drop their ordnance. "When the missiles started flying, everyone's voice on the radio went up an octave or two," Cooper laughed.

Captain Gary Semmel was flying four miles behind Diehl's lead four-ship. "I can remember the HARMs [High-speed Anti-Radiation missiles that lock on a SAM's trajectory and follow its flight path down to the launch site] coming over our heads to suppress the SAMs that were coming up at us," Semmel said, but the big eye-opener was the AAA below and above the formation. The IP-to-target run was about 12 miles, but it seemed to Semmel as though he would never make it. "Everything was happening in slow motion," he remembered.

According to Capt. Mike Sindel, who flew two boxes behind Diehl, "It was something I had never seen before. You can get a 3-foot-high plume of smoke from practice bombs, but nothing like

the smoke and fire below us."

Major Bill Keplesky said flying between layers of heavy flak struck fear into everyone, but he had been able to conquer his alarm. "I learned after my first mission that the tactics and training we received could help me beat this enemy, and that this big arm wouldn't reach up and grab me out of the sky." Keplesky flew 35 combat missions. Since an enemy always attacks from the rear, it was the responsibility of his four-ship to make sure that didn't happen on this first day of the air war.

"What we didn't realize is that the guys who rolled down and hit the target first woke 'em [Iraqis] up, so by the time we rolled down the chute, the flak was pretty thick," Keplesky noted.

Flying into the teeth of a SAM site is like staring down the twin barrels of a 12-gauge shotgun. The airburst weapons dropped by Keplesky hit about 100 meters from the SAM site. Its Iraqi gunner never knew what happened. The site was obliterated in a flash of light and heat. Thousands of white-hot bomb fragments scraped the SAM site off the face of the earth. For his aggressive attack on the airfield near Baghdad on 23 January, Bill Keplesky was awarded an Air Medal for valor, plus three later Air Medals.

Lieutenant Colonel Hal Gonzales, operations officer for the 33rd TFS, was supposed to be at the rear of the PM package, but some 150 miles into the



mission, his wingman aborted and Gonzo's three-ship was replaced with a four-ship containing the "Boss," Col. Huot.

# Magic Carpet Of Flak Over Baghdad

As one who flew F-105 Thunderchiefs out of Tahkli, Thailand, when bombing targets along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and Cambodia during the Vietnam War, Huot said the flak was the heaviest he'd ever seen since Southeast Asia. "The sun at our backs really accentuated the Triple-A ahead of us. It was so thick, it looked like a carpet," he said.

Although the flak was heavy over the target, Huot's calm voice on the radio was comforting to the young lieutenants and captains tasting combat for the first time — it was also comforting for the older airmen.

By the time the rear of the PM package approached the target near Baghdad, the natives on the ground were indeed restless, and firing everything they had. Lots of 37mm was bursting over the airfield, and there were a couple of SAM launches on the east side of Baghdad, while Iraqi gunners were just burning up their gun barrels.

The naked eye can't see an F-16 flying above 8,000 feet. The stubby-winged aircraft is so trim, it's virtually invisible at high altitude. That's why our flights were never really threatened by Iraqi 37mm AAA, although they did have to steer clear of the 57mm, which *could* reach out and touch them.

"All of the peacetime simulations we do did not get our minds ready for how big the target array looks when you look down on it for the first time," Gonzales said. "The airfield is about the size of Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio." Despite heavy ground fire, Gonzales and his wingman, Bryson Phillips, bore down on the target and dropped their bombs on a taxiway intersection.

"You are not going to close an airfield

F-111 en route to Iraq. The package of F-16s, F-4Es and M-111s carried ordnance to destroy strategic targets, supress radar and follow SAM-guiding radar signals to their sources for destruction. Photo: USAF

forever by cutting runways, but you can keep the enemy aircraft from taking off and coming full-bore at you," Gonzales observed.

# **Temporarily Closed For Repairs**

Coalition attacks on Iraqi airfields caused Saddam to hide some of his air assets in hardened shelters, where they became sitting ducks. In addition to scattering air assets around the country, the Iraqi air force also flew 137 aircraft to neighboring Iran, where they remain to this day — in the Iranian air force.

"Conventional Mk-84s like we carried just bounced off hardened shelters," Gonzales said, "But an I-2000 [Improved Mk-84] with a shaped-steel penetrator on its nose cut through the reinforced steel and concrete shelters like a hot knife through butter."

Going to Baghdad was like going to the Super Bowl for Gonzales, awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for his attack on the airfield. "I'd been training for 19 years to do something like this. I thought about all of my friends I have lost in training accidents in the past 19 years as I took the runway. I wished they could have been there."

But Gonzales, who has more than 2,000 hours in an F-16, felt their presence as he pushed the throttle to the wall and blasted off toward Baghdad. Seven days later, Gonzales led another strike on the same airfield: 36 F-16Cs and their escorts.



Fighter jocks from 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing, at their base in UAE, left to right: Bobby Armour, Brett McCann, Bill Keplesky, Gary North.

"We caught most of his [Saddam's] heavy bombers out in the open, and destroyed about 20 Badgers and Blinders in their revetments." Gonzales recalled personally destroying a Candid, one of only two Soviet-built AWACs in the Iraqi inventory. "One minute it was there, the next minute it was gone," he said. It "just vaporized" as two 2,000-pound bombs exploded over the revetments.

Gonzales' flight used a combination of CBU-87s and Mk-84s fused to explode 15 feet above ground to nail the bombers — you break open fuel tanks with frags from Mk-84s, and then set fire to the planes with incendiary bomblets from CBU-87s.

In gun-camera footage from another strike package heading into the southern part of Baghdad 30 minutes after Gonzales's strike, you can see a pillar of black oily smoke rising 15,000 feet and blowing over Baghdad. Gonzales laughed when he watched Peter Arnett on Cable News Network later that night describing what "must be a refinery or something hit on the outskirts of Baghdad."

# Six Minutes Of Good Work

The attack took less than six minutes: a 25-mile-long stream of aircraft going down the chute, dropping their ordnance and jinking free of AAA. "Although there was a broken deck of clouds as we rolled in, you could still see the target 30 miles away," Diehl said, recalling the moment of truth.

When the strike force approached the target, radar warning systems had sounded in each of the aircraft. Some pilots say it looked like the Fourth of July over Baghdad. "I saw three SA-2s launched to the left of the package," Diehl noted, "A total of six SAMs were fired at us, but nobody got hit. The EF-111s did a great job of blinding their radar sites, because the [Iraqi] missiles didn't seem to guide."

The pair of MiG-29 Fulcrums that came up to challenge the strike force were smoked by a F-15s flying cover, but that didn't comfort Gonzales. "When those two airplanes got shot down, we didn't feel that much better, because we were afraid they could be the trip wire for the Iraqis who could then launch the fleet. But that didn't happen."

During the first 24 hours of the strategic air campaign, more than 1,300 combat sorties were flown by Coalition aircraft, including 812 strike sorties by fixed-wing aircraft.

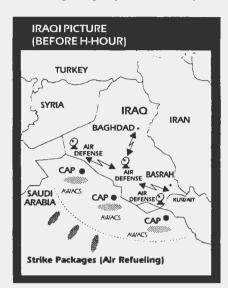
Captain Brett McCann flew 38 missions in the Gulf War and saw five or six SAMs launched at packages he flew in. "Being so small and so fast, we were a hard target to hit with AAA, but SAMs were my primary fear. I was afraid I wouldn't see a surface-to-air missile in time to avoid it," he said.

Toward the end of the war, when F-16s were prepping the battlefield for the ground war in southern Kuwait, they got down closer to the deck, usually under cloud

cover which tended to backlight the aircraft and give Iraqi gunners something to shoot at. "I remember several days when AAA gunners were tracking my aircraft," McCann said, "but they couldn't get enough lead to shoot me down."

### SAMs, SAMs, SAMs

Captain Tom McCloskey, who flew 31 missions without a scratch, just happened to look down in Kuwait and see a SAM launched at him in the waning days of the war. Instinctively the young pilot turned toward the threat. "When you don't see very much movement on the canopy, you know it's guiding on you." McCloskey said



later. He saw the smoke trail as the SAM left its launcher and screamed almost straight up at him. "SAM!!" he shouted into the radio as he broke hard left, dived toward the missile, and defeated it.

Some of the SAMs were as big as telephone poles and easy to see, but some of them were small, shoulder-fired missiles about 4 feet long, like the one fired at Gonzales. Gonzo yanked so hard on the stick when one of the red-tipped missiles zoomed by his cockpit, the G-forces jammed his HUD (Heads Up Display) camera. "So I must have really G-ed it up pretty good, because HUD cameras are supposed to take 9 Gs before stopping," he laughed. "I gave it all I could when I saw it go by."

The 32 F-16s that attacked the military airfield dropped 64 of the 2,000-pound bombs. The biggest daytime raid of the war let the people of Baghdad know the U.S. Air Force was going to take it to them around the clock — not just at night.

# Tally-Ho Tally

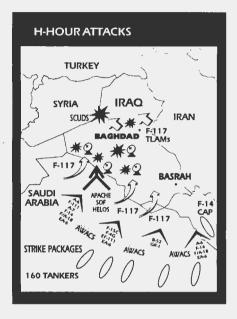
Before the war ended, the 363rd flew 4,200 combat sorties (an average of 32 per pilot) and dropped 10 million pounds of bombs. That amounts to 5,000 of the 2,000-pounders.

Diehl flew 40 missions against Iraqi targets, completing 100 combat hours in less than one month. Quite an accomplishment for him, but even more for his trusty F-16C.

In all, 126,645 combat sorties were flown against Iraq by Coalition fixed-wing aircraft. Preliminary information indicates a total of 28 U.S. fixed-wing aircraft were lost in combat, for an unprecedented low attrition rate of 0.03% — impressive, given the potential of Iraq's air force and airdefense system. Iraq lost 36 fixed-wing aircraft and six helicopters in the air, along with 68 fixed-wing aircraft and 13 helicopters on the ground.

### FNGs Are FGoodGs

And how did the young lieutenants stack



up against the older lieutenants, like Diehl, who first flew in Vietnam?

"No comparison. No comparison at all," Diehl said, noting the young Air Force pilot today is much smarter than his Vietnam-era counterpart, and much more physically fit.

Perhaps history may someday tell how the presence of Billy Diehl and his men affected Saddam's decision to consolidate his forces in Kuwait and not venture any further south. In the meantime, the highly decorated veteran of two wars flies a desk in the Inspector General's office at Headquarters, Tactical Air Command, Langley AFB, Virginia.

Like most of the 32 fighter pilots in his squadron, Diehl dreamed he'd come home from the war and fulfill his fantasy of owning a sports car. "Many of the guys bought pickup trucks," Diehl laughed, "But a few of us went all the way."

Diehl still flies F-16s, but logs most of his time these days in a fire-engine-red Porsche 928.

Dale B. Cooper covered the Gulf War for SOF when and where it was happening, and continues his coverage with after-action reports on the men and women of Desert Storm.



he angry thunder of exploding hand grenades ripped through the razed village, echoing the sounds, and resurrecting images, of a city called Kuwait.

The war in the Gulf is over, but in this village the fighting will never end.

The village is "Combat Town," and for the thousands of American service members who have fought here, the village has more than earned its name.

Officially titled the Collective Training Facility for Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), this \$7.9-million

training center is one of the newest additions to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Combat Town offers military units the simulated and live-fire training essential to sharpening urban combat skills.

"It gives units a chance to train in a 'lived-in' environment," noted Master Sergeant Ernest Johnson, non-commissioned officer in charge of the MOUT facility, "and it teaches the individual Marine or soldier the techniques essential for attacking or defending a city."

Construction of the "town" began in

Adrenalin surges as Marines prepare to round corner into the unknown.

May 1988 and was completed some 28 months later, when the former Marine Corps Commandant, General Alfred M. Gray, cut the opening ribbon in September 1990.

# Not The First - Just The Best

Although Lejeune's "combat town" is not the first — similar centers have been in operation for years — many service members feel that the incredible realism

# FIRE TEAM TRIGGERS EXPLOSIVE BOOBY TRAP;







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# WIN, U.S.A. Text & Photos by Karl Ulrich

Lejeune offers makes this at least the first of its kind.

"It's actually a well-established city," Johnson said. "It has its own fire station, working streetlights, a shopping mall, not to mention a school complete with a gymnasium and a soccer stadium. We even have an established city hall."

The town offers other unique points of realism in its 31 buildings - teller stations inside the bank, a helicopter landing pad on the roof of the hotel, and a real underground sewer system, for example.

"The sewer system was built to enable an attacking unit the opportunity to get into the city with surprise," Johnson said. "It can be accessed from the river, through manholes along the main street, or from a basement inside two of the buildings." Such true-to-life features enable trainees to flank the enemy, or approach a sniper or automatic-weapons position undetected, just as they should in a real scenario.

As in most genuine situations, Combat Town affords operational options, and trainees can exercise them all: conventional assaults, fast-rope and rappelling insertions, sewer infiltration, or night operations.

# Anybody's Home Town

Want more realism? With the ability to change backgrounds quicker than a stage show, stop signs become "alto" signs and the "Aunt Bea Arthur Memorial Bridge" sign turns into a collage of Arabic script.

The town is tagged in five different languages (English, German, French, Spanish and Arabic) and is open to all five service branches (U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines).

"We've had numerous dealings with Army Special Forces, and the Navy SEALs. Also we've had the FBI come



down and use the facility." Johnson said.

Units arrange to use the Combat Town facility by submitting requests for a scheduling window. The Marine Corps School of Infantry - which all Marines now attend - routinely sends men through a three-day course at Combat Town.

When training at Combat Town, it is up to the requesting unit to decide how they will make use of the facility, while supplying their own weapons, program and cadre. Two units can request the facility at the same time and have good-guy/badguy war games. Local Marine units on occasion supply aggressor forces, where such requests fit into their own training schedules.

As MOUT training is primarily an infantry function, the bulk of the units using Combat Town are ground-pounders. Although there have been armored fighting vehicles in the town, the biggest vehicle routinely deployed in MOUT training is a HumVee. Certain foreign service groups have visited Combat Town, such as the

Sniper's delight — a view of Combat Town from church steeple.

British Royal Marines, Canadian and French units, and even the Royal Bermuda Regiment.

Because urban combat is becoming a more common phenomenon in police work, civilian police units have also trained with Marines at Combat Town. Camp Lejeune's MPs recently trained there together with police officers from Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Both groups reported satisfaction in what they were able to learn from each other.

# **Plenty Of Time For Sergeants**

After a session of cross training for dynamic entries, Staff Sergeant Robbie D. Mask, Lejeune's Special Reaction Team commander, noted, "We're used to going dynamic all the way. In dynamic, we're not going to take our time. As soon as we

Continued on page 72

# MAKES DYNAMIC ENTRY INTO DIMLY LIT ROOM.







# Death In The Tall Grass

# Father Of M16 Forges

# Marine-Spec Sniper System

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

n the minds of the blue-sky rangers who design and adopt the small arms of our armed forces, snipers routinely make one-shot kills at 1,000 meters or more. For that purpose, a finely tuned bolt-action rifle chambered for a long-range belted cartridge such as the .300 Winchester Magnum will punch anyone's ticket.

While Carlos Hathcock's incredible feats, and those of a few other experts, have certainly been substantiated, most military sniping takes place at ranges well under 400 meters. Law enforcement countersnipers rarely engage targets in urban environments at distances beyond 100 meters.

Furthermore, it has been my personal observation that opponents on the battlefield are most often encountered in multiples of two or more, and after the first shot has been fired, those remaining will be bobbing and weaving about seeking cover. For this, we need the potential for rapid follow-up shots that can be delivered consistently only by a self-loading rifle. If we have to sacrifice a smidgen of the turnbolt's sub-MOA potential, then so be it. Under these circumstances, the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge will more than suffice.

It would seem this Mission Essential Need Statement (MENS) was met almost 30 years ago by the M21, an accurized M14 equipped with a scope (originally the Leatherwood ART model) and sometimes with a sound suppressor. When we start adding on bipods and scopes, the M14 — no lightweight to begin with — becomes one heavy mother (more than 14 pounds).

While the M21 can be tuned to sub-MOA accuracy, its receiver must be glass-bedded to enhance the accuracy potential. The M21 barrel itself is free floating except for a downward pressure of 8 to 12 pounds at the gas cylinder ferrule, near the front end of the stock. The first action bedding will last no more than 800 rounds. The second bedding will maintain the system's accuracy potential for 1,200 to 1,500 rounds before re-bedding is again

necessary. If a rear recoil lug is added by welding, the action bedding will last the life of the barrel (approximately 3,000 rounds).

Surely there must be a more satisfactory alternative. There wasn't, but there is now. Eugene M. Stoner recently designed, and Knight's Armament Co. (Dept. SOF, 7750 9th St. S.W., Vero Beach, FL 32968; phone: 407-562-5697) now produces the caliber 7.62x51mm NATO SR-25 countersniper system. Knight's founder, C. Reed Knight Jr., is principally known for the sophisticated sound suppressors he

Reaching well into the 1990s, the SR-25 blends a battle-proven design with the innovations required of a milspec, highly accurate countersniper system.

supplies to the U.S. military, his reintroduction of the Stoner 63A weapons system (See "Stoner's Super 63," July '91) and for the "American 2000" pistol he designed and Colt produces. A Marine veteran, Stoner is arguably our nation's most prolific and imaginative modern military small-arms designer.

While associated with Armalite as chief engineer, Stoner was responsible for designing the AR-15/M16, the caliber 7.62x51mm NATO AR-10 battle rifle (small quantities of which were sold to Nicaragua, Sudan, Burma and Portugal), the AR-5 caliber-.22 Hornet bolt-action rifle adopted by the U.S. Air Force as the MA-1 survival rifle, and the blowbackoperated AR-7 "Explorer" rimfire takedown rifle. Stoner's prototype projects during that time frame included a boltaction sniping rifle (AR-1), a semiautomatic 7.62x51mm rifle (AR-3) and a 12-gauge shotgun with an aluminum bore and receiver (the AR-9).

After leaving Armalite, Stoner developed what was at that time a revolutionary concept for a weapons system, built around certain basic components, that could be transformed into a rifle, carbine or various machine-gun configurations by fitting different barrels, feed mechanisms, trigger systems and other parts to the basic assembly. After changing the caliber from 7.62x51mm NATO to 5.56x45mm NATO, it was to become the famous Stoner 63(A) family of small arms. During the 1980s, Stoner marched forward to design the Ares caliber 5.56x45mm Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW). The so-called Stoner 86's modular design emphasized simplicity and reliability.

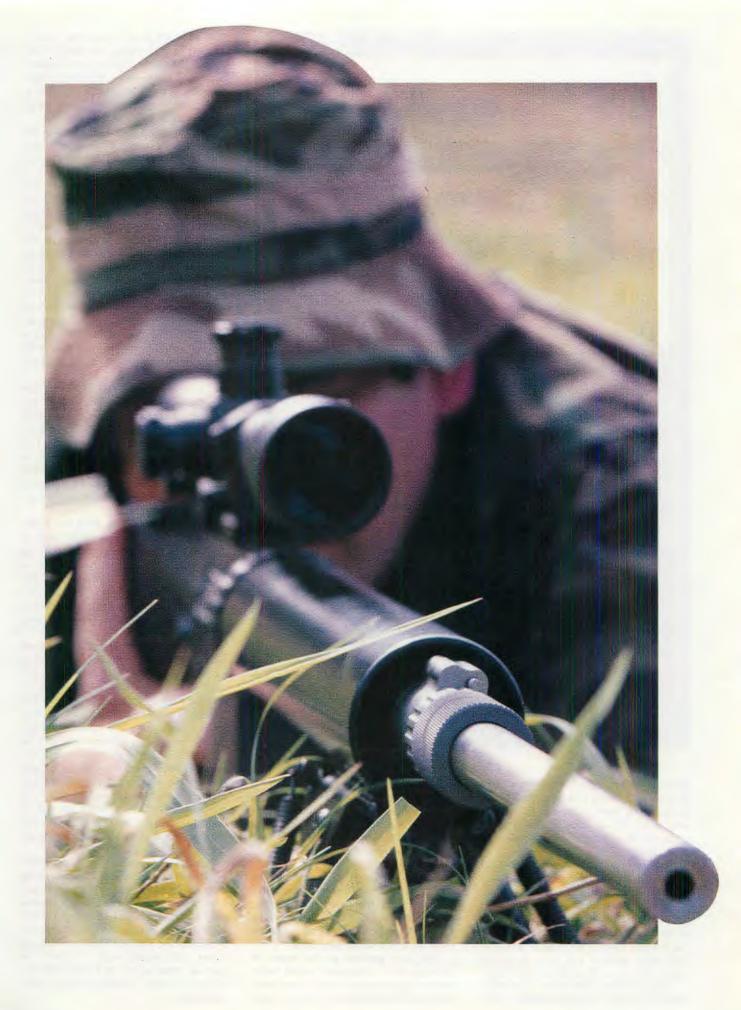
Reaching well into the 1990s, the SR-25 (which stands for Stoner Rifle — AR-10 & AR-15) blends a battle-proven design with the innovations required of a milspec, highly accurate countersniper system.

Overall length of the SR-25 is 44 inches. The weight, empty, with a magazine but without an optical sight, is 10.75 pounds. As are the M16's, the SR-25's upper and lower receivers are forged and precision machined from high-tensile strength 7075 T6 aluminum alloy. Both are hardcoatanodized to milspec MIL-A-8625 Type III Class 2. This almost-black finish (now specified on the M16A2) is darker than the Sandstrom No. 9 gray-baked paint finish encountered on early Coltmanufactured M16s. The SR-25 shares 60% parts commonality with the M16.

While the prototype we fired had a stainless steel barrel, production series SR-25 rifles will be fitted with a hammer-forged Remington barrel made from 4137 ordnance-grade carbon steel that has been phosphate-finished ("parkerized").

Barrel length is 24 inches. Received as a blank, the barrel is turned on a lathe by Knight's Armament Co. to accommodate the SR-25's gas block. This is the same barrel blank employed by Remington to manufacture the M24 SWS (See "Sniper Systems," July '88) for the U.S. armed forces. This so-called "5R" barrel has five

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SR-25 caliber 7.62x51mm NATO countersniper rifle, fieldstripped.

# **SR-25 SPECIFICATIONS**

Caliber:	7.62x51mm NATO.
Operation:	Gas—direct, no piston; rotary bolt with 7 locking lugs; semiautomatic only.
Feed mechanism:	20-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine.
Barrel:	Five grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in
	11.25 inches; hammer-forged from 4137 ordnance-grade
	carbon steel; radial rifling with sloped sides on the lands to
	reduce fouling and minimize stress on the bullet lacket.
Barrel length:	24 inches.
Overall length:	44 inches.
	10,75 pounds, with magazine and without an optical sight.
Weight, empty:	
Sights:	Optional, flattop upper receiver with Picatinny-type base will
	accept a large variety of optical sights and night vision
	equipment.
Finish:	Milspec anodizing on aluminum components, phosphate finish
	on steel parts.
Manufacturer:	Knight's Armament Co., Dept. SOF, 7750 9th St. S.W., Vero
	Beach, FL 32968; phone: 407-562-5697.
T&E summary:	All the essential features required of a modern countersniper
	system, packaged into a reliable, battle-proven envelope.
	Semiauto action with the capability for rapid follow-up shots.
	Excellent accuracy potential.

grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 11.25 inches. It features the Russian radial-rifling form as found on the AK-74, which has sloped sides on the lands to reduce fouling and minimize stress on the bullet jacket.

Twists of 1:12 inches meet NATO specifications for the 7.62x51mm round and are also encountered on caliber .30-06 M1919A4 BMG barrels manufactured after the 173-grain M1 bullet was officially replaced by the 152-grain M2 bullet on 12 January 1940. This twist is adequate for light bullets and will stabilize projectiles up to 170 grains at long ranges in warm climates. However, I personally believe heavier .30-caliber bullets, when

fired at extremely long ranges, deserve a faster-twist barrel (such as 1:10 inches) — especially so when fired in the denser air encountered in cold weather environments. Remington's 1:11.25-inch twist represents an attempt at a reasonable compromise.

The SR-25 barrel is completely free floating to maximize its accuracy potential. It is attached to the upper receiver in the M16 manner. A knurled nut in front of the gas block protects the threads used for installation of a sound suppressor.

The rear portion of the barrel is shrouded by a cylindrical, partial barrel housing that does not make contact with the barrel. Fabricated from phenolic tubing

(with steel threads at its rear end, used to attach it to a threaded cap fixed to the front of the upper receiver) and finished with black epoxy paint, this shroud also provides a point of attachment for a folding, telescoping Harris bipod, while also serving as a handguard.

The front sling swivel is located on the Harris bipod. The rear sling swivel is that of the M16 series and will be found on the underside of the M16 buttstock.

Although countersniper rifles of this type are not commonly carried long distances by foot soldiers nor employed for spontaneous contact on patrol, nevertheless, the sling swivels are in the wrong location for carrying the weapon in the ready position at the waist — as they are with most modern infantry rifles from the Kalashnikov to the M16. Sling swivels on the underside of a rifle are useless remnants of 19th-century parade grounds. They belong on top of the rifle, where they can be utilized to carry the weapon in a position from which it can be instantly employed.

Those familiar with the M16 will find all of the SR-25's controls — both the magazine catch/release button and safety lever — in the same locations. The SR-25 is a semiautomatic-only firearm. The trigger housing has been machined to preclude the installation of selective-fire components. In any event, the full-auto mode serves no useful function whatever on a sniping system.

Both the bolt and the front end of the carrier match the dimensions of those of the AR-10 rifle, while the rear half of the bolt carrier has been stepped down in diameter to properly interface with the M16's buttstock and buffer. The SR-25's 20-round magazines have aluminum-alloy, waffle-pattern bodies and resemble those of the AR-10.

Disassembly procedures duplicate those for the M16 series. Missing, however, is the distinctive AR-10/M16 carrying handle, usually an integral feature of the upper receiver forging. Instead, the SR-25 has a "flattop" upper receiver of the type now under trials by the U.S. military. A socalled "Picatinny" (Arsenal) scope base which is somewhat thicker than the standard Weaver base - is an integral part of the forging. This configuration requires a high-profile scope mount, to provide comfortable viewing through an optical sight when the rifle is mounted to the operator's shoulder and the correct cheek-weld is employed.

Our test specimen was equipped with a high profile, quick-release mount, along with a Leupold Mark 4 M1-10X scope. This scope differs from the M3 version only by the absence of a ranging dial and higher-profile turrets. Both are of 10-power magnification, nitrogen filled and weighing about 1.75 pounds each. Knight's can provide either scope, or a wide selection of other optics including night vision equipment.

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The M3 version should be selected where quick ranging of targets-ofopportunity is required. The M3 has a three-quarter-minute Mil Dot reticle pattern, and features an elevation dial with 1-minute click resolution that permits adjustments in elevation from 100 to 1,000 meters within a single revolution of the dial, along with windage adjustment of one-half-minute click resolution. A turretmounted focus adjustment eliminates the need for a separate parallax adjustment. Both 7.62x51mm NATO and .300 Winchester magnum ranging cams are included.

All lens surfaces of the Leupold Mark 4-series scopes, including the large 42mmdiameter objective lens, are multicoated for optimum brightness in poor light

military projectiles. For the first 6 to 7 inches of travel through living tissue, the bullet remains point forward, and the wound track is no larger than .30 caliber. At 8 to 14 inches penetration, the bullet yaws 180 degrees, after which it passes through the body base-forward with total penetration of about 25 inches. Where bullet yaw is at its maximum (60 to 120 degrees), a large temporary cavity is produced, and the height of the permanent cavity will increase to 1.22 inches (the length of the 168-grain boattail projectile) maximum. As long as the jacket material remains a rather ductile copper alloy, there will be no fragmentation, so increasing the size of the permanent cavity by yaws is all we can expect.

One-inch at 100 meters was the best I



environments. The 30mmdiameter scope tube is machined from a single piece of thick-wall aluminum tubing, with a black-anodized matte finish and a nominal 0.1inch wall thickness for maximum strength and durability.

Leupold's Mark 4 scope was subjected to an astounding 1,600 Gs of impact force (twice the recoil force of a .375 H&H Magnum) to ensure its milspec qualities. The Mark 4 can be removed and reinstalled with less

than one-half MOA change in zero.

Our SOF test and evaluation of the SR-25 was conducted with Federal 308M match ammunition, which has the superb Sierra 168-grain MatchKing Hollow-Point Boattail (HPBT) bullet.

Extremely accurate, the 168-grain MatchKing HPBT bullet does not expand in living tissue - its wound-ballistics potential more or less duplicates that of the U.S. M80 7.62mm bullet and other non-deforming Full Metal Jacket (FMJ)

Opponents are most often encountered in multiples of two or more, and after the first shot has been fired those who remain will be bobbing and weaving about, seeking cover. For this, we need the potential for rapid follow-up shots; these can be delivered consistently only by a self-loading rifle.

stifling humidity of the Florida coast. The staff member of Knight's Armament Co. assigned to assist me shot groups at and under 3/4 MOA, and that appears to be the accuracy potential of the SR-25 in the hands of an operator familiar with the system. When compared to this, the Soviet Dragunov sniper rifle is little more than a crude joke, as it can barely produce 2 MOA groups under

could shoot in the

the most ideal circumstances.

Perceived recoil was no greater or less than expected from a rifle in this weight class, chambered for the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge. There were no stoppages of any kind. The SR-25 is devoid of any aggravating deficiencies or idiosyncrasies.

I have always been an advocate of selfloading rifles over turn-bolt actions for military sniping applications. They are also superior for most law enforcement scenarios. While operators must be trained

# **Method Of Operation**

With a gas action taken from the Swedish Ljungman AG42 rifle (and also employed in the French MAS 44, 49 and 49/56 rifles) and a trigger mechanism based on that of the M1 Garand, all rifles in the M16/AR-15 series as well as the caliber 7.62x51mm NATO AR-10 and SR-25 rifles operate, briefly explained, as follows:

After ignition of the primer, the projectile passes the barrel's gas port, permitting gas to flow back through a stainless steel tube and a so-called bolt-carrier "key" into the hollow interior of the bolt carrier. As the carrier moves rearward, a cam slot cut into the carrier turns the bolt's cam pin, which causes the bolt to rotate clockwise, freeing the seven locking lugs from their abutments in the barrel extension. The carrier's momentum draws the bolt rearward at a slightly reduced velocity.

After the extractor has withdrawn the empty case from the chamber, a spring-loaded, bump-type ejector protruding from the left side of the bolt face rotates the case around the extractor claw and out the ejection port of the upper receiver body. The bolt carrier assembly continues rearward, compressing the recoil spring and cocking the hammer.

The buffer and recoil spring return the carrier, and a fresh round is stripped from the magazine. All forward bolt motion stops after the round is chambered. The carrier continues forward to contact the rear face of the barrel extension and its cam slot turns the cam pin, which rotates the bolt and its lugs counterclockwise into the locked position.

While much criticized by those who sought, for whatever reaons, to find fault with the M16 from muzzle to buttplate, the truth is that this system of gas operation works, and quite well, if properly maintained.

- P. G. K.

first and foremost to fire accurately (and this cannot be emphasized too much), the ability to fire again - more rapidly than a bolt can be manipulated - on multiple moving targets can be vital to an operator's success. In addition, detachable magazinefed rifles like the M21 and SR-25 provide a greater ammunition reserve than most bolt actions, with the notable exception of the Parker Hale M85.

Eugene Stoner has packaged all the essential features required of a modern countersniper system into a combat-tested and well-proven envelope. Series production of the SR-25 is about to commence - serious inquiries are invited by armed professionals and/or those agencies representing them. Prices vary according to the ancillary equipment ordered with the rifle.

# 8

# SOF's Three-Gun Match Fires Up Las Vegas

by Greg Walker Photos by David Bjorkman



Top Sponsor Team: Navy Arms (L-R): B. Piatt, M. Hockwitt, R.K. Brown, P. Reed, R. Read



Top Open Team: Colorado Rude Dogs (L-R): B. Ryckman, C. Putman, R.K. Brown, B. Cox, E. Rhodes



Middle Shooter Award: Carmen Anderson of Al Mar Knives and M. Waidelick, match XO



Top Law Enforcement Street Team: D.O.E. Idaho Regulators (L-R): H. Hall, A. Hall, R.K. Brown, B. Cooley, M. Katseanas



Top Law Enforcement Trainer Team: AI Mar Knives Law Enforcement Team (L-R): R. Morrissey, T. Perritt, R.K. Brown, E. Hanson, S. Anderson



Top 15 Overall: (Front): B. Piatt(1); 2nd row (L-R): D. Watson (7), E. Rhodes (6), B. Cooley (5), L. Gosnell (4), J. Clark (2), J. Gaines (3). 3rd Row-G. Munn (15), S. Skochko (14), R. Haddad (13), B. Cox (12), J. Miculek (11), B. Enos (10), C. Putnam (9), M. Katseanas (8)

hen we first started the match 13 years ago, the prize money was offered as a means of bringing in big-name competitors to the convention. What has happened since then is that professional shooters enter and win the match every year, doing so only for the money. That attitude was never the reason behind SOF sponsoring this match, and as of 1992 we are returning to our original competitive goals."

Bob Brown, avid shooter and Editor/Publisher of Soldier Of Fortune, isn't finished. "Look," he continues, "we structure the match to test the combat shooting skills of its competitors. I'm tired of seeing the professional, bigname match mercenaries flying in for the week and walking off with all the prize money. And it ain't gonna' happen anymore."

Out at the range site, a dedicated cadre of volunteers work under the experienced eye of match director Michael Horne. Charged by Brown to put on the finest combat match in the country, Horne agrees with his boss.

"Everyone who signs up to shoot is here for two reasons. They want to havea good time, and they want a chance to earn some money. As of 1992, we will spread the prize money further down into the ranks of the shooters. Prizes will be smaller than in previous years, but that's how we extend the awards to include more people," Horne said.

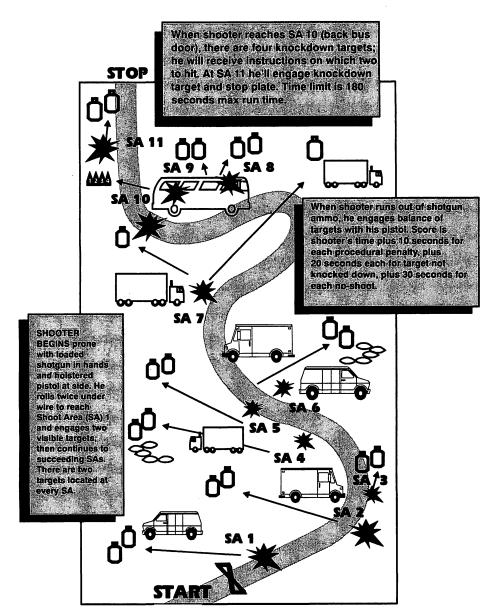
The Three-Gun Match centers on combat shooting skills, including individual skills and tactics. Horne has spent long hours on the desert range, working closely with his volunteers to devise complicated shooting scenarios that demand more than just competitive tricks for high scores.

Horne introduced new equipment at the 1991 match, and promises an even greater expansion in shooting props for 1992's competition. "Unless we improve the event and make it more challenging, it will become like any other combat match you might attend," he noted.

SOF's refocusing effort was announced during the first evening of shooter registration at the 1991 convention, and met with strong approval from the audience. Many of the competitors are in Las Vegas each year for the event. They come for the camaraderie provided by the convention and for the chance to test their shooting skills against Horne's imagination.

According to Brown, big names don't guarantee a good match. "We didn't have any of the pros here in 1990 [because of a conflict with another match—ed.]," he recalled, "and for the match was rated as one of the best we've ever held. That tells me something."

The 1991 events were tough, complicated scenarios which required an accurate eye, steady hands and a strong reliance on tactical movement. During one



# Stage 5: Highway to Hell - Road to Basra

event alone, the shooter was required to begin his "run" with a loaded shotgun and engage targets from a variety of body positions as they negotiated the lane.

At the range officer's signal, the shooter transitioned from shotgun to handgun, completing the timed event by assaulting a bus in which both "civilian" and "terrorist" targets were positioned. Leaving the vehicle through its rear emergency exit, the shooter was faced by one

SIGN UP EARLY FOR NEXT YEAR

If you're interested in competing in the 1993 Soldier Of Fortune Three-Gun Match, pick up an application immediately after the 1992 match in Las Vegas, or send an SASE to Michael Horne, 408 E. Harding, Bakersfield, CA 93308.

last series of silhouette targets, forcing some of the fastest magazine changes seen at any SOF match.

On the final day of competition, a tired but highly satisfied Horne said, "First, without our volunteers this match would not have been possible. They deserve public credit for donating their time and energy toward what I consider a very successful event.

"Second, it's not personalities that are the draw here — it's the match itself. This event is for those who support SOF and its convention. Next year will be even better, with prize money getting to those who most deserve it."

The 1991Three-Gun Match hit the mark with competitors and spectators alike.

What's next? Well, all 225 shooter spots have already been reserved for the 1992 match, to be held 16-18 September; it promises to be the best in years. Join us at the 13th Annual SOF Convention to see how it comes out.

# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE 1991 THREE-GUN MATCH

Place	Name	Score	Place	Name	Score	Place	Name	Score
1	BRUCE PIATT	665.47	73	WAYNE NOVAK	377.71	145	JOHN SOLHEIM	280.47
2.	JIM CLARK JR.	637.61	74	ALAN J. BROSNAN	373.17	146	ROBERT HEFFINGTON	278.42
3 4	JOE GAINES LEW GOSNELL	565.39 561.88	75 76	MARK W. MUSSER SR. JOSEPH A. TURECK	370.97 370.26	147 148	WILLIAM E. BURRIS DAVID L. JONES	275.94 275.66
5	BENNIE COOLEY JR.	552.86	77	DAVID KYNOCH	370.25	149	HAROLD POTEET	275.07
6	EDDIE RHODES	540.62	78	FOLKE MYRVANG	369.24	150	BRETT PAPWORTH	274.09
7	DAVID R. WATSON	539.50	79	ROBERT THORBURN	367.37	151	KEN BOYMOOK	272.55
8	MIKE KATSEANAS C. PUTMAN	537.29 534.26	80 81	JAY P. WASSERMAN DENNIS M. BOBBY	365.75 361.29	152 153	ROBERT JAME KASAI WILLIAM J. MURPHY	272.53 271.38
10	BRIAN ENOS	534.16	82	WAYNE DOEDEN	359.46	154	JOHN T. McNALLY	269.56
11.	JERRY MICULEK JR.	510.90	83	ALLEN HALL	355.79	155	JAMES CRETEAU	268.36
12	BART COX	502.84	84	JIM ANGLEMIER	354.61	156	DAVID CANTRELL	266.57
13 14	RICHARD D. HADDAD	501,35 498.93	85 86	DAVID REDDING PATRICK A. ROGERS	354.39 353.73	157 158	MIKE HENSON GREGORY NEDURIAN	266.56 263.88
15	GURNEE MUNN III	497.13	87	KEITH R. MILLER	353.01	159	HERB COWAN	259.66
16	STEPHEN HULET	493.72	88	RICH BUMGARDNER	352.27	160	JEFFERY WOR	257.91
17	ALAN A. BORUCK	493.19	89	SAMUEL E. VAUGHAN	352.03	16S	COTT D. ROGERS	257.70
18 19	JAMES M. SMITH	491.94 488.86	90 91	BRIAN JONES KELLY JONES	350.59 349.89	162 163	JAMES S. SEAMAN	257.53 256.90
20	GARTH GAINES JOHN C. APPEL	400.00 485.77	91 92	SEAN DEXTER	349.59	103 164	JOE SELVA RICHARD E. KNUDSEN	256.68
21	ERNIE HANSON	480.00	93	JIMMIE W. McCOY	348.27	165	EUGENE R. ALLEN	256.53
22	PATRICK B. SLATER	479.92	94	THOMAS CARLSON	348.10	166	JACK TAKEMOTO	254.94
23	BILL PARMALEE	477.86	95	LEANNE WOSLUM	345.65	167	FRED HERSEY	254.85
24 25	SCOTT ANDERSON JIM CARROLL	477.55 476.62	96 97	CHARLES W. SEAMAN RICHARD THOMAS	344.00 342.32	168 169	HOWARD M. HALL LARRY McALLISTER	253.13 252.47
26	DAVID BRIDGEMAN	472.16	98	DAVID V. KECK	340.92	170	PERRY E. TURNER	251.04
27	EDD WOSLUM	466.16	99	PAUL M. MILLER	340.42	171	PAUL S. RICHTER	250.80
28	RONALD FILLINGER	465.49	100	DAVID A. RAMSAY	338.58	172	W.A. MOWERY	249.20
29	GUY HAWKINS	465.05	101	JAMES D. WELCH	338.46	173	BRADLEY ONETO	248:46
30 31	DAVE LAUCK STEWART WILSON	462.39 462.37	102 103	TOM HENINGER GARY HILL	337.98 334.68	174 175	KATIE BUSH GLEN H. HAGLER	247.29 244.44
32	JIM RANDOLPH	451.91	103	ROBERT J. BROSSIA	334.14	176	ALLEN CONSEAR	237.58
33	ALLEN W. HECKART	448.67	105	GREGORY P. DUST	333.45	177	BUZZ BROOKS	236.56
34	THOMAS J. PERRITT	447.31	106	RICHARD C. RICHTER	332.96	178	SCOTT SANDERVILLE	236.13
35 36	RON BRAULT MARK LONSDALE	446.54 443.78	107 108	CARMEN ANDERSON	332.46 332.35	179 180	DAVID JACQUES	236.11 235.79
30 37	L. ROS LIVINGSTON	443.42	109	WALTER C. SHANKEL ART PREECE	332.33 330.21	181	T.J. JOHNSTON EDWARD DUTKIEWICZ	233.79
38	MEL HOCKWITT	442.40	110	KEN COHEN	329.79	182	JOE WALSH	230.90
39 -	PAUL REED	437.52	111	DAN BATES	329.24	183	JAMES F. GROSCOLOS	227.92
40	BOB RYCKMAN	436.99	. 112	DUNCAN MURRAY	328.44	184	UNA EARL	227.32
41 42	JOE GUARNERA JOSEPH W. CHMIEL	436.45 435.59	113 114	WALTER VOTTA JOE TAFLINGER	325.83 325.78	185 186	LES ARMSTRONG STANLEY CANIGLIA	226.34 225.89
43	S. KIMBREL-HAMPE	434.43	115	ALLEN E. BAUDER	321.67	187	MORRIS J. McLEES	225.85
44	GARY A. HERBERT	432.91	.116		315.70	188	DAN CARY	224.62
45	MAX F. JOSEPH	428.66	117	RON BRAWLEY	313.22	189	DOUGLAS MIYATAKE	221.72
46	CHRIS HAMMER	427.35	118	DAVID A. MAZUREK	312.08	190	THORPE E. NOLAN	
47	ROBERT BUCKWALTER ANDY STANFORD	419.81 415.02	119 120	GARY BRITT STEVEN W. BORDEN	309,36 308.61	191 192	LINCOLN HOSHINO TED OLSHANSKY	211.32 210.56
49	VERN HAYS	414.82	121	RICHARD M. SUMRELL	305.06	193	BEVERLY J. VAUGHAN	204.43
50	GREGORY R. YOUNG	414.21	122	ANN LIVINGSTON	304.16	194	THOMAS STAYONOFF	192.84
51	DAVID M. POWELL	412.84	123	RUSSELL BRISTOL	303.81	195	CATHY TOLLEY	191.19
52 53	JAMES JONES HENRY SHIO	408.12 407.17	124 125	THOMAS R. MCCOWAN KEN HACKATHORN	303.81 302.85	196 197	JOE ANDREWS HOMER S. CARDER	190.31 188.92
54	SCOTT LIND	406.62	125	DEAN WARNER	302.84	198	JOHN W. CARVER	186.80
55	LARRY DUCKETT	405.86	127	SCOTT DHALLIWALL	301.13	199	VARDEN BRENDSEL	177.59
56	RICK SCALLEN	403.31	128	MICHAEL R. GRIMLER	297.46	200	BILL SHILLIG	177.44
57 58	TOM L. CODY	400.20	129	JON J. MCMULLEN	296.82 296.05	201 202	AL MAR	172.96 172.22
58 59	JOHN T. KOSTELIC ROBERT MORRISSEY	395.76 395.19	130 131	SCOTT MACCAUGHTRY JEFF NICKLER	295.90	202	SAT GURU KHALSA ROBERT E. SMITH	171.81
60	WILLIAM STRUKE	394.41	132	EDGAR A. SUTER	293.09	204	MARK K. HOREY	167.35
61	ROGER READ	394.05	133	GREG BRAULT	292.42	205	JACK WHITE	166.82
62	CHARLE MILLHOLLIN	386.39	134	ROBERT K. MOXHAM	290.12	206	JOHN ADAN	160.28
63 64	JOHN CARMODY LAWRENCE BAIRD	386.38 386.33	135 136	ROBERT O'NEAL JAMES JOYCE	289.29 288.85	207 208	DELLA CARLSON CHUCK DOMPA	156.41 155.33
64 65	TOM LASHBROOK	384.68	130	EDWARD FINN	288.79	209	DAVID C. EDGAR	154.82
66	RICK SIMPSON	383.42	138	M.S. McCOMBE	288.39	210	CRIS FAES	150.76
67	WAYNE JENKINS	382.48	139.	KEVEN RAMSEY	287.77	211	HUGH BETTS	149.67
68 60	TONY KANALEY	381.96 381.58	140	DENNIS OBERG JERRY L. FRANCISCO	287.40 287.04	212 213	THOMAS C. SHATTOCK BEVERLY ANDREWS	145.94 138.21
69 70	JIM WALL CORY BIZZELL	381.58 379.91	141 142	DAVE STARNES	285.52	214	MARCO RUGGIERO	120.74
71	ROB HAUGHT	379.31	143	MICHAEL JOYCE JR.	282.75	215	ROBERT SANDGREN	114.21
72	DARYL K. HOFFMAN	378.46	144	RICHARD W. GRIGGS	281.93	A Marian		1867 A

50 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

# SHOOT-OUT LAT OSWEGO

Text & Photos by Greg Walker

or the past several years, police officers have been invited to take part in one of the most challenging tactical matches offered in the Pacific Northwest: the Al Mar Knives (AMK) Law Enforcement Invitational. In 1991, 69 competitors entered the daylong event.

"The match is primarily an opportunity for police officers from different agencies to get together and exchange information," said Mar, one of the foremost U.S. knifemakers. "They get a chance to compare professional observations, equipment, tactics, and so on."

Mar holds a reserve commission with his local sheriff's department, acting as a firearms- and officer-safety instructor. He is a noted expert in both areas. Range officers for the match once again came from Mar's shooting team.

"I'm looking for realism," Mar explained. "Police officers have to move, shoot, communicate. They need to react on a moment's notice, making life-ordeath decisions. Each stage needs to reflect this kind of thought process." The match provides a competitive atmosphere, although range officers are quick to point out that individual education is more important.

"They're competing against themselves, not other officers or teams," one range officer noted. "This match gives them a chance to see where their strengths and weaknesses are. By the end of the day, each officer knows what he can and cannot do when using a handgun, shotgun or rifle."

Indeed, more than one officer has traded in his trusty six-gun for a highcapacity autoloader after running through

Al Mar (center left), an Oregon reserve deputy, oversees every aspect of his law enforcement match.







One of the most challenging events was a mock street shooting, complete with police vehicle, bystanders, buildingentry requirements and good guy/bad guy targets. Duty weapons were only firearms allowed.

multiple-target stages such as the "Crack House."

"I've carried my revolver for 17 years now," one of last year's competitors lamented, "but I'm getting a Glock [pistol] next week. You can't reload fast enough if there are several targets popping out at you within seconds of each other. Times on the street have changed, and I guess I need to as well."

Mar's matches are recognized by Oregon's law-enforcement training center, and points are given to officers who attend the shoot. "Our match is run as safely as any police range in the state," he noted. "The difference is we are able to run very realistic stages that most law

All match stations are tactical scenarios. More than one officer has turned in his trusty revolver for a high-capacity automatic pistol after shooting this event.

enforcement agencies tend to shy away from. The guys who come here are interested in honing their street skills—seeing what it is they're doing either right or wrong. The street is far different from the range, as anyone can tell you."

Mar also believes in introducing new weapons systems to the officers. He has brought a fully automatic shotgun onto the range, as well as exotic sniper systems and optics. Many range officers also take part in competition, showing they can keep up with the best of them.

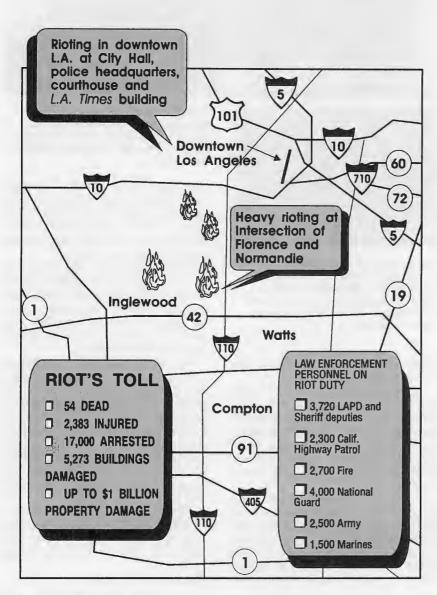
The AMK Invitational consists of six individual stages. All feature multiple targets, which may be steel plates or pop-up humanoid representations. A sniper stage was introduced last year, and well received by various department tactical teams. Running, dodging, crawling and jumping are commonplace activities for these officers, with handcuffing downed "suspects" and dragging wounded "partners" out of the line of fire encountered also.

"Ever try to cuff a suspect while staying under cover?" Mar asked. "Here, we make that experience available to you. From there, you're expected to engage

Continued on Page 71

# W A R Z O N E LOS ANGELES

by Jim Morris



t was sort of like waking up in the middle of a post-nuclear disaster movie. Thinking back, I realized I had seen the first signs of the cataclysm while driving home on the freeway. Just before the turn-off onto Interstate Highway 10, I noticed helicopters over Los Angeles and a smoky haze to the southeast, but had thought nothing of it.

When I walked in my door, the message light on my answering machine was blinking. I pushed it on and heard a number of familiar voices, all wanting to know if I was all right: Why the hell wouldn't I be all right?

I called my friend Shae LeMone, a mystery writer who is easily distinguished from most of the rest of that breed by the fact that he is 6 feet 3 inches tall, black and wears dreadlocks to the middle of his back. Shae is a big, easygoing, friendly guy, but nobody ever messes with him.

"What's going on?" I asked.

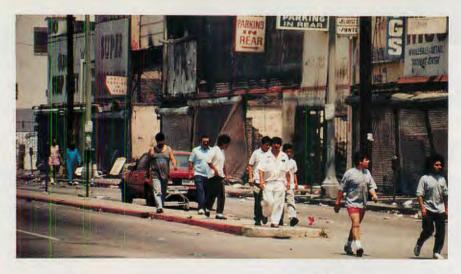
"Aw man," he replied, "I went down there. What a scene! It's not just blacks it's everybody. They broke the windows on my van."

"What the fuck are you talking about?" I demanded. "I've been in class all night."

"The Rodney King verdict is in," Shae said. "It didn't go over real well. South Central is burning like Rome. Turn on your TV."

I hung up and turned on the television just in time to see some poor schmuck getting the shit kicked out of him by what looked like a black gang. This was followed by coverage of stores being looted by racially mixed crowds, along with reports on the fires burning all over South Central Los Angeles.





I ran out on the terrace. I could hear lots of sirens and gunshots, but these are always heard in my neighborhood. Looking toward South Central, I couldn't see much. According to TV news, the action was three or four miles away, but it was heading my way.

When the original verdict came in on Wednesday afternoon, 29 April, acquitting three officers of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) — Sergeant Stacy C. Koon, Officer Timothy Briseno, and Timothy Wind, a former officer — of all charges in the Rodney King beating, while acquitting Officer Laurence Powell on all charges except one that deadlocked the jury, many LAPD officers were relieved. They had expected guilty verdicts.

Officers had been on the receiving end of taunts and catcalls ever since the videotaped beating incident, so some of them felt somewhat vindicated. There were also many police among them who disagreed with the verdict, but almost all officers hoped this would take the heat off.

Those with an ear close to the street knew better. The verdict was well received by few others in Los Angeles. And in the depressed South Central area, a 46-square-mile section plagued by poverty, gangs and crime, the aquittals sparked instant rage.

At about 1630, LAPD officers Kris Owen and Steve Zaby answered a disturbance call. Six black men were bashing in car windows and lights with baseball bats. When their patrol car arrived, it was showered with a barrage of bricks and bottles. Nearby, another pair of officers attempted to help the driver of a Volvo whose windshield had been smashed and his car attacked.

Before he could disperse the men breaking car windows, Zaby had to break off and assist a Hispanic couple and their baby. They had been attacked inside their car and the couple beaten. Owen and Zaby got the family in their patrol car and roared off to the hospital.

By this time, there were approximately 30 officers at the corner of Normandie and Florence avenues. Officer Perry

Alvarez chased down a young man of about 19 who had been throwing rocks at patrol cars. As Alvarez attempted to shove him into his cruiser, his mother came up and screamed, "Don't take my baby!" A crowd surged in on officers who had, by this time, formed a skirmish line. Police had no witnesses to the rock-throwing, so finally they let the kid go. Not that the mob was in any way pacified. When officers told anyone to get back, they were taunted, "What'cha gonna do, Rodney King me?"

Black officers took more abuse than anybody. "Oreo ... Uncle Tom ... sellout," were among the kindest terms leveled at black officers. There were numerous threats of further reprisals against them. "Gangbangers" in the mob had a chant of their own: "It's UZI time!"

There were hundreds in the crowd now, and the officers were surrounded. Lieutenant Mike Moulin, commander of the 77th Street Division, led a group of 25 police in, but then determined his force was inadequate and simply a focal point for further violence. "Everybody out," he ordered.

The cops regrouped at their command post at the 54th Street and Arlington Avenue RTD bus station. Moulin was on the horn trying to get a clear set of orders, but was coming up empty. His officers sat by their cars seething, wanting to go back. "Metro's trained for this," Moulin told them. "Metro's going in."

Metro is an inclusive term for specialized units, such as SWAT teams. But whoever told Moulin that Metro was going in forgot to tell Metro. The mob remained unchecked.

As the 77th Street officers fretted and cursed, they heard transmissions from other divisions that had answered calls in 77th's territory. They listened as those units came under fire trying to cross gang territories that the 77th Street cops would have known to drive around or go through in force.

National Guardsman with M16/203 has no 203-rounds, and his magazine is empty. Nevertheless, rioting calmed down as soon as troops were deployed. Photo: Robert Walchli By second day of rioting, the streets of South Central L.A. looked like Beirut. Photo: Robert Walchli

Still, Moulin didn't send them in. He's now being second-guessed for that by everyone above him in the department, but most of his superiors appeared at the command post, where nobody countermanded his order.

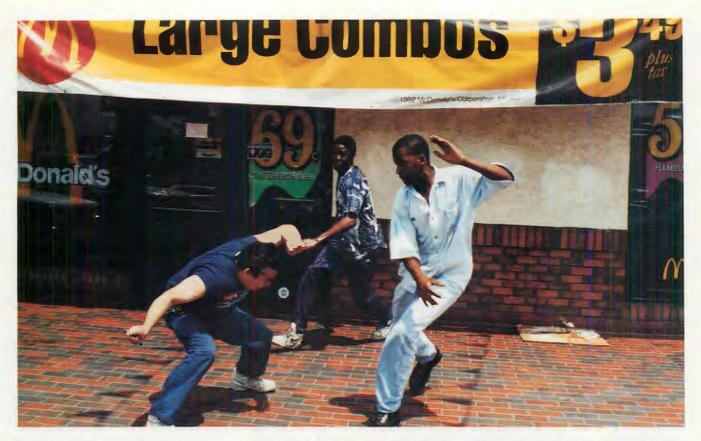
By 1830 hours, several-hundred demonstrators congregated outside Parker Center police headquarters in downtown Los Angeles. The crowd began to throw rocks, smash windows and burn a kiosk. Others trashed nearby buildings and tied up traffic on the Hollywood Freeway.

Meanwhile, back at ground zero, in a scene captured by a helicopter camera crew and televised live, Reginald O. Denny was being dragged from his gravel truck and beaten senseless by four gang-bangers.

Lieutenant Bruce Hager was in command at the 77th Street station. On television, from the helicopter shot, he saw the four drag Denny from his truck. There were 12 officers in the station, but only one car. The others were at the command post at 54th and Arlington. Hagerty led a group of five detectives in to attempt a rescue, but they were forced to turn back by sniper fire.

It should be noted here that Denny was rescued by four bystanders, all of whom were black people from the neighborhood who put themselves at considerable risk. There were many incidents like this





throughout the city.

Looting went into high gear. The mob began burning buildings in South Los Angeles. The first fire call was received about 1930. By 2000 hours, rioting had spread to Inglewood. Mayor Tom Bradley declared a state of emergency. At this point California Gov. Pete Wilson decided to send in the National Guard. And that's when Moulin sent the 77th Street cops back into the streets.

Firefighters were swamped with calls, and frequently came under sniper fire themselves. Unless guarded by police, they had few techniques to protect themselves. They parked their trucks as shields. If a structure was burning so briskly that they would have to enter to handle it, they just let it go. This was a lesson learned during the Watts riots of 1965: If you go in and leave one man on the hose and another on the hydrant, those guys are alone and potentially in serious trouble. It's not worth it — let it burn.

Because of sniper fire and smoke over the affected area, the Federal Aviation Administration shifted the landing pattern for Los Angeles International Airport out over the ocean. By the end of the riot's first day, 10 people were dead, nine from gunshot wounds. Two-dozen were admitted to the emergency room at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center.

I got up early the next morning and called my folks. I didn't know what they'd seen on the tube the night before, but I figured they'd be worried by now. Then I turned on the television and was unable to tear myself away for the rest of the day. It was like watching a remake of "Night of

A knife fight erupts at a McDonald's on Martin Luther King Blvd. in South Central L.A. Man in blue with knife eventually ran into restaurant to take refuge; second guy smashed in door with bat. Photo: Robert Walchli

the Living Dead."

There were more than 100 fires burning; throughout the day, I watched fires and rioting move from miles away to right around my corner. The fire department was being shot at by snipers; it had to be guarded by almost the entire police force in order to fight the blazes.

Every once in a while, I'd wander out on my terrace to check the smoke. At first it was a haze on the horizon, then a pall. Helicopters circled overhead or flew swiftly toward the smoke clouds. All day, calls came in from distant friends as far away as Australia, checking on my welfare.

On my terrace, the smoke was thick and acrid. Now the entire city was suffused with it. I was reminded of those times after a firefight when the cordite smoke hung thick in the jungle. But this was worse: It was ugly, corrosive stuff, and it was everywhere.

My favorite quote of the day was from a woman TV newscaster caught in a crossfire between some Korean merchants and a bunch of looters. Her cameraman got a great shot of a Korean pharmacist in baggy khaki pants, windbreaker and baseball cap low over the eyes, blazing away from a classic Weaver stance.

"If I'd wanted this, I'd have gone to Beirut when I had the chance," the reporter muttered. "Let's get out of here." Earlier, at midnight, Gov. Wilson had announced his plans to send in the National Guard and the California Highway Patrol. Shortly after this, three looters were killed in a high-speed chase with the Beverly Hills Police Department. At that point, Mayor Bradley instituted a curfew. By this time more than three fires per minute were being reported. The L.A. Fire Department didn't have one-tenth the resources to keep up with them.

There were 2,000 guardsmen in the initial call-up. They were gathered at their armories by 0800 Thursday morning, but their ammo wasn't, and many guardsmen were untrained for this kind of duty. Units began intense riot-control training. They had nothing else to do, since plans for their deployment were only then being made, and they had no ammo.

At 0930 Thursday morning, Los Angeles' Mayor Bradley, flanked by Fire Chief Donald Manning and Police Chief Darryl Gates, held a press conference.

The relationship between Gates and Bradley is an interesting one. In most cities, the police chief is subordinate to the mayor; in Los Angeles he is insubordinate. He works for the Police Commission; an independent agency. Gates and Bradley are not warm friends. Until this press conference, they had not spoken to each other in 13 months.

Meanwhile, the mob grew to tens of thousands looting stores in South Los Angeles, Koreatown, Hollywood, Mid-Wilshire, Watts and Westwood. They also hit more sparsely in Beverly Hills, Compton, Culver City, Hawthorne, Long Beach, Norwalk and Pomona.

People started to stock up on gas and



groceries, realizing there wouldn't be any the next day, possibly not for a long time to come. Government offices, businesses, shopping malls, schools, colleges, professional and amateur athletic events, and mail services were all shut down in the heavily affected areas. Also, a power outage left thousands in the dark.

Between 1200 and 1430 Thursday, the Guard, now fully armed, locked and loaded to hit the bricks patrolling in the heavily hit areas. By then, smoke along Washington Boulevard had become so thick that Blue Line train operators couldn't see through it. The line was shut down and passengers were bussed to a clear area.

At 1530, U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr announced that the Justice Department would resume its investigation of possible civil rights violations in

the King beating case.

Later that afternoon, Gov. Wilson held another news conference, urging a statewide end to the violence and promising increased law enforcement to bring the riots under control. Curfews were imposed that evening in Carson, Culver City, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Huntington Park, Inglewood, Long Beach, Pomona, San Fernando, Torrance and West Hollywood. A countywide curfew was also im-

Gov. Wilson took a helicopter tour of the area Thursday evening, and shortly thereafter ordered 6,000 more Guard troops

mobilized, requesting the assistance of federal troops. Twentyfive more persons died Thursday, and there were about 600 injuries, 1,000 fires, 750 arrests and an estimated \$250 million in property damages.

By changing channels every time the action flagged, it was possible to orchestrate wonderful television. CLICK: Helicopter shot of dozens of plumes of black smoke. CLICK: Reporter in front of a jostling mob; reporter questions, "How can these people deal with their pain ... " while behind her the crowd whistles and grins as they flash V-signs and call out, "Hi, mom!" CLICK: Some asshole in a suit, explaining it all. He opens his mouth to speak ... CLICK.

Mayor Bradley and Gov. Wilson, who apparently get along much better than Bradley and Gates do, burned the midnight oil late Thursday. At 0115 Friday morning, they got on a conference call with President Bush and his advisers. It lasted until 0530. The topic: deployment of federal troops. At 0700 Friday morning, the pair announced 3,000 to 4,000 federal troops would be deployed in Los Angeles County, while 1,000 riot-trained federal officers would be sent into the city.

Even as the two officials spoke, a threeman LAPD patrol came under fire. Three to a patrol car was standard by this time. And even at that early hour on Friday, people started lining up at post offices for the mail they hadn't gotten the day before: It was check day.

On Friday, actor Edward James Olmos hit the streets with a broom. He became a janitorial pied piper. Hundreds of volunteers came out with brooms and mops to clean up the city. The cleaner-uppers were

National Guard troops called up by Gov. Wilson; races and sexes worked together. Note how M16s have no magazines.

Photo: Robert Walchli



Wary troopers in front of graffiti that expresses rioters' views perfectly. Photo: Robert Walchli

as racially mixed as the looters had been. Indeed, many of them may have been the same people.

A lot of people in the street found out things about themselves they hadn't known before. Many found their stool had become runny, but others found reserves of courage and determination.

My favorite was Jodi Baskerville, a Channel-2 reporter. I'd never seen her on camera before, or maybe I just hadn't noticed a tiny young woman in a TV suit with TV hair. But this day, she was out there in jeans and sneaks, totally jazzed and the hell with the hair. She started out doing a stand-up about a riot victim on the ground, then blew that off to organize the crowd and start first aid on the guy.

The anchor cut away to avoid compromising her journalistic objectivity. But I was proud of my chosen profession at that

There were no major fires Saturday not much violence at all. The presence of troops seemed to have calmed things down.

Later that morning, Bradley went on television again to announce a prohibition on sales of ammo and on gasoline, except for automobile use. He also established the previous piecemeal restrictions as one dawn-to-dusk curfew throughout the city.

That afternoon more than 1.000 Korean citzens gathered at the Western Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard intersection to protest looting and burnings of their businesses. While this demonstration was in progress, it was announced from Washington, D.C., that a federal grand jury had been convened to look into possible violations of King's civil rights by the four LAPD officers.

The feds were moving swiftly on all fronts. From 1500-1700 hours, U.S. Marines from Camp Pendleton and units of the 7th Light Infantry Division began arriving at Marine air stations in Tustin and El Toro, just south of Los Angeles. By this time, more than 4,000 National Guardsmen were deployed on the streets.

Looters arrested in the first three days of rioting were scheduled for arraignment at 0800 on Saturday, but the court couldn't

get squared away to handle the influx until noon.

At 1100, an estimated 30,000 people marched in support of the Korean merchants. Bradley announced that the curfew would be in effect indefinitely. The mayor also named Peter Ueberroth to head the cleanup effort. At the same conference, Wilson announced that President Bush had declared Los Angeles a disaster

By then, the death toll was up to 45; injuries were past 2,000,



and there were 7,500 arrests.

When fire and looting were reported in the mall at Sunset and LaBrea, I decided I had to see it. So I went for a stroll in the 'hood. It's less than a five-minute walk to the area in question.

I sat on a wall across the parking lot and watched the Silo electronics store get cleaned out. Somebody came strolling out with a duplicate of the boombox I'd paid just under \$300 for. The windows were busted out of a couple of fast-food joints, but a huge jar of mustard isn't much loot.

This was not a particularly ethnic mob. Mostly it was your basic Hollywood trash. A young woman painted like a ghoul, in lingerie and combat boots, came out of the 7-11 with a bag of almond M&Ms in one hand and a Coors Lite in the other. Behind her, two rock-'n'-roll sleazebags tried to remove an entire video

game.

Finally, some cops came and made the mob put down their loot. They didn't arrest anybody. Probably attracted by the fact that I was the only person there not moving, a cop suggested I leave.

I carefully unlocked my back door that night. I didn't think anybody would come, but if they did, I didn't want the door knocked off its hinges before I blew them back through it.

Things started going back to normal by Sunday. Bradley announced he would lift the curfew on Monday. A new record for inmates at the county jail was set: 25,000.

The city had calmed down the instant the troops were deployed. Most Guard inAmid the hatred and destruction, a sign reminds those who have forgotten that all men are created equal.

**Photo: Jim Morris** 

teractions were with people wanting to bring them something better to eat than MREs. Except for one guy who tried to run them down with his Toyota. They tried to be cool about it, but when somebody aims his car at you three or four times and tries to run you down, you have to do something. In this case, guardsmen blew the dude's shit smooth away.

By Monday it was pretty much over, except for troops still on the street. The cleanup efforts had been successful. Neater, more immaculate rubble would be hard to imagine; Beirut's chamber of commerce would have been damned impressed.

As usual with events of this kind, sig-

A young woman painted like a

ghoul, in lingerie and combat

boots, came out of the 7-11

with a bag of almond M&Ms in

one hand and a Coors Lite in

the other.

Another myth is that the solution to this problem is to throw money at it. This wasn't about money; it was about sir and ma'am and please and thank you.

whites as well.

When I was a teenager in Oklahoma City, we had a juvenile delinquency scare. Being 16, black or white, was considered prima facie evidence of criminal intent, and the wrong haircut and a traffic violation could lead to having your face used to wax the hood of a squad car.

There have been recent stories in the Los Angeles Times of well-known young black actors and athletes such as Blair Underwood of "L.A. Law," Wesley Snipes and Olympic athlete Al Joyner all being rousted by the LAPD under the assumption that a young black guy in a neat car must be a dope dealer or pimp or, hell, who knows? Let's bust him and find out.

If these guys get hassled, we have to assume it's a whole lot worse for people who are not celebrities.

Let's assume for a second that the vast majority of LAPD officers are impeccable in their community relations. Not good enough - 15% can make the whole bunch look like assholes.

And the cops have a legitimate bitch, too. They're

second-guessed and disciplined by a board which has no concept of what it's like to face a giant PCP-addled geek when you're over-the-top on adrenaline. Psy-

nificant points tend to get lost and simplistic solutions get applied. One myth that has grown up around the riots is that they were purely racial. Blacks made up a majority of the rioters, but barely so. There were plenty of Hispanics, and plenty of sure, and are probably right, that any use of force now will subject them to being

Continued on page 74



Wounded and weary, cavalrymen of C Company rest in trench, trying to escape grazing fire of North Vietnamese automatic weapons. For battlefield identification, C Company troops painted circles on helmets: A Company used triangles.

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# "PRETTY GOOD LITTLE FIGHT"

# 2/7 CAV BATTLES AND BLEEDS AT LZ 4

by Bob Poos

**Photos by Henri Huet** 

Last month, in Part I of this story, we left author Bob Poos and photographer Henri Huet with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, surrounded and under heavy fire on the Bong Son plain, Vietnam.

As part of Operation Masher, A Company had landed without opposition at LZ 2 and marched north. When they reached the rice field immediately southwest of LZ 4, they came under heavy fire. All three platoons maneuvered to cross the flooded field to their front, taking heavy casualties in the effort. They consolidated in a cemetery and large trench that formed one side of a rice paddy dike. Outnumbered and virtually surrounded, 2/7 Cav fought throughout the day, and individual acts of bravery became commonplace.

Company medic Thomas Cole, hit just below the eye with an AK-47 round, cleaned his own wound, bandaged it himself and then tended to other casualties — a sergeant crawled through withering fire three times to rescue injured comrades. Again and again, platoons with too little artillery and no air support would advance using burial mounds of an ancient Vietnamese cemetery for cover, then try a rush for enemy bunkers, only to be driven back by concentrated fire.

They were short on ammunition and it had begun to rain, making aerial resupply unlikely.

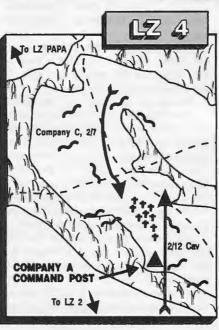
s darkness began to envelope LZ 4, A Company began to strip weapons, ammunition and grenades from the dead and badly wounded for use by the living.

Captain Joel Sugdinnis beckoned Henri and me over to him. "This is going to be a long night," he said. "Could you guys go over there among the wounded and do whatever you can?"

I told him of course we would, volun-

teering to arm myself with something other than the 9mm Browning pistol I was carrying in order to maintain whatever perimeter security I could.

Cole had created a makeshift hospital at one end of the trench — a combination



A Company, 2/7 Cav sheltered near cemetery through the night of 28 January 1966. C Company, initially dropped in four different locations on the sandy plain, regrouped and moved south to join A Company. The next morning two companies of the 2/12 Cav marched in from the south and attacked fortified enemy positions on right flank.

infirmary and morgue. The dead were intermingled with the wounded, the only difference being that the dead were wrapped up in ponchos, faces covered. Cole moved among them all, giving aid where he could, covering a man up when he had to, amidst the rain, explosions and rifle or machine-gun fire snapping just overhead.

Henri and I placed ourselves at Cole's disposal; he asked if we would act as security watch for this stretch of trench. I had my sidearm, for whatever good it might do if we were overrun. Henri did not carry a weapon, believing strongly that newsmen should not. But he said he would wake me during his watch if it should become necessary.

As we were settling in for a long, miserable, cold and wet night, an incident occurred which remains as one of the most poignant memories I have of Vietnam. A young soldier whose jungle fatigue uniform was but a collection of bloody rags spoke to me in a matter-of-fact tone.

"I'm goin' to die," he said. "And that's OK. I don't mind ... but I would have liked to have seen my folks once more first ... and that's not going to happen." He paused, then said, "I'm awful thirsty. Could I have a drink of water?"

I had two almost-full canteens, but the soldier, a blue-eyed blond youth, was clearly shot through the stomach several times, probably the victim of a machinegun burst. I knew that it was a policy never to give a stomach wound victim any kind of drink or food, because it would almost certainly cause fatal peritonitis of the intestinal tract.

I looked up at Cole, who leaned over the wounded man. He nodded; that told me the trooper had no chance of survival, and there was no reason to deprive him of a small drink of water if that would make him more comfortable.

Pulling the plastic canteen out of its canvas pouch, I unscrewed the cap and handed it over. The soldier took a couple of swallows, coughed once slightly, then



his arm relaxed; the canteen fell from his hand, its water draining into the

Cole felt the young man's pulse and looked closely into his eyes, then pulled a poncho over the dead man's face and crawled off down the trench, tending to other wounded who might survive.

After dark, Cole had some unexpected patients - an entire Vietnamese civilian family of a half-dozen, ranging from an elderly woman down to a child barely out of the infant stage who was badly wounded and crying. Cole treated them all as best he could with what little he had - GI bandages, wound powder and a Syrette of morphine for the tot, but the child was too badly hurt and so died during the night.

The family began crying with grief and fright. A soldier called out in a harsh croak from a parched throat, "Get 'em to quiet down ... snipers."

Otherwise no American soldier, wounded or not, uttered a sound that night, despite dreadfully painful wounds, the chilling rain and the torment from hunger and thirst. Some of them died.

# Welcome To The Infantry

An hour or so after dark, there was a development that may have saved A Company from being wiped out. Despite the rain, which fell heavier as the night wore on, there came the clear sound of an approaching helicopter, its rotor blades battling against the showers and wind. No other aircraft had been in the air for hours.

But this one, a Huey, the personal com-

mand ship of 3rd Brigade commander Hal Moore, was manned by volunteers willing to face the elements, as well as certain heavy antiaircraft fire, in order to bring in at least one load of supplies to the surrounded com-

The crew must have known this would be a one-way trip. And so it was, as a storm of heavy and light machine-gun fire greeted the chopper as it drew near. You could clearly hear the thwacks as bullets impacted the

Suddenly the Huey appeared just vards overhead, headed down and out of control. It crashed into the flooded paddy A Company had earlier charged over - just at the edge of the higher ground the Americans now occupied.

Against my better judgment, I found myself crawling toward the wreckage, accompanied by a couple less-badly wounded men. I don't know what we expected to find, but it wasn't what we did encounter chopper's crew of four, uninjured.

One of them demanded, "What the hell's happening - what's going on?"

The voice came from the crew member closest to me. I extended a hand to help him onto dry ground and said, "I think you just joined the infantry."

"Looks like that, don't it?" he replied. Other GIs were also assisting crewmen onto higher ground and guiding the aircraft commander and co-pilot to Sugdinnis' command post at the far side of the trench. Then the troopers learned that aboard the Huey was a cargo much more precious at this moment than any amount of monetary wealth: cases of M16 ammunition and hand grenades. (There were also a few cases of mortar rounds, because nobody had told the volunteer crew that A Company did not have any mortars due to an earlier plane crash.)

Noncoms assembled a line of men to hand the cases bucket-brigade fashion from the downed ship to positions in the trench, where they were broken open and their contents handed out.

Now, everyone knew that if the North Vietnamese did attempt a mass charge in an effort to overrun A Company at first light, as expected, they would pay an extremely high price for it.

I think that this was the point when A Company began believing it might live through another day.

North Vietnamese fire had dwindled to incoming shots from a few treetop snipers, and also the occasional mortar round, most of them landing either long or short of their mark. Those of us still in the open crawled back to the protective trench.

I managed to find my way back to my former position and slid down alongside Henri to inform him things might be looking up. He told me to try to get some sleep and that he'd maintain security for the wounded.

It never occurred to me that I actually would sleep. But I did, and remained so until Henri shook my shoulder when a slight gray broke through the darkness in a false dawn. The real one came along a few minutes later; it revealed a heavy, low overcast. But the torrential rain had diminished to an intermittent drizzle that steadily became lighter. It was perfectly quiet, as if the heavy atmosphere were a blanket shutting out all sound.

## **Mad Minute**

Then a roar of noise shattered the silence, as every soldier in A Company simultaneously touched the trigger of every rifle, machine gun or pistol at hand, most of them on full automatic. It was the Cavalry's "mad minute," a tactic invented in the Ia Drang to clear snipers from treetops. Here, it brought down at least one of them, who crashed through the palm fronds that had concealed him - he landed with a soft thump on the sodden ground.

Silence returned suddenly as troopers dropped empty magazines, crammed new ones into M16s and threaded new belts into M60 machine guns. And then A Company came slowly alive like a wounded but still dangerous animal.

Men began moving around in the trench, the wounded wriggling in futile efforts to get more comfortably settled in their rain- and blood-soaked clothing and bandages; the unwounded cleaned weapons or examined equipment to ensure every necessary item functioned. Sugdinnis, his forward observer and the senior officers all spoke into radio handsets.

There were also bucolic sounds and sights, strangely out of place in this scene of blood, suffering and death. A rooster crowed somewhere in his own personal announcement of the new day. Scrawny little chickens pecked in the mud, while a small pig rooted into a litter of discarded bloody bandages and empty C-ration cans, which some men had apparently been able to open and eat during the night.

Litter and battle debris were scattered all around: discarded helmets and web gear, North Vietnamese and American alike empty magazines and thousands of spent cartridges - .223s from M16s, 7.62mm from M60 machine guns and all the brass of various Soviet weapons the North Vietnamese had expended before they fled; weapons dropped by the killed and wounded of either side, or discarded as unusable because of jams or lack of ammunition.

Sugdinnis had pulled in his listening posts just before daybreak. Now the unwounded and a few lightly wounded men of A Company began reforming into fire teams and squads, once more to try breaking through the distant bunker line — or at least carry out a spoiling attack against an anticipated Vietnamese mass assault.

For reasons unknown, the communists had not made a night attack, nor had they made any aggressive demonstrations so far this morning. Rifle bullets snapped by here and there but they were relatively few, at least compared to the blizzards of fire yesterday. Men even crawled around on their hands and knees, or moved in a low crouch.

# **Hooch Sweet Hooch**

A South Korean Marine officer who had accompanied the Cav as a liaison from his parent unit poked his head over the trench lip and beckoned with his hand.

"Hey," he said, "there's an empty hooch a few meters away over here. Let's check it out. Might be able to get dry in there."

I was reluctant to leave the protective embrace of that trench, but I was even more cold, wet and miserable than I was afraid of being hit by incoming rounds. We crept over to the structure, a familiar rural Vietnamese house: adobe-like walls and thatched roof, with a front door and shuttered windows on each side. Just inside the open doorway lay some kind of metallic contraption.

"I wonder if that's a booby trap," I remarked.

"I don't give a fuck what it is," snapped the Korean, "this is my hooch."

He stood up, kicked the object into the house and leapt back behind the wall. I expected a loud explosion and a dead Korean Marine, but nothing happened. Inside, we found the usual for such a place — wooden table and chairs, a frame bedstead with a straw mattress and a fireplace with wood stacked nearby.

"You watch out the window for bad guys," the Korean said, "and I'll get a fire going." He soon had this accomplished and in a matter of minutes we were warm and dry. It was a remarkable contrast to the previous 18 hours or so.

After a while I noticed something had changed, and for a few minutes I couldn't figure out what it was. Then it became evident: No more rain fell and, in fact, the sun was trying to force its way through the overcast.

"That's good news," the Korean said.
"Now maybe they'll get some air support in here." As he spoke, it was clear that A Company was preparing to resume its work of fighting the war. Thus, it was time for me to do my job reporting it.

The Korean's prediction soon came true as the battle reopened with an air strike delivered by a flight of four A1-E Skyraider propeller-driven dive bombers from the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF). Skyraiders were the best infantry support planes of all those used in the war, and VNAF pilots were among the most daring of any fliers from the Allied forces. With the commu-

nists pinned down in their bunkers, at least temporarily, by the Skyraider bombs, napalm and rockets, I was able to rejoin my friends in the right flank platoon, dug in once again and waiting for directions.

We heard the unmistakable sound of movement in the brush outside the perimeter. Two or three soldiers aimed M16s in the general direction, but held their fire.

"If that's A- 2/7 over there, don't shoot," a voice called out from behind a clump of bushes. "I'm the point for 2/12."

An A Company trooper told the unseen speaker to show himself; a head poked out cautiously from behind the foliage. It was a black face under a camouflage helmet and it was beautiful. We soon learned that this company had made a predawn overland forced march to reinforce with their brothers in the 7th.

Soon after, the thumping of helicopter rotor blades announced more reinforcements, among them my friend, Colonel Hal Moore, commander of both 7th Cavalry battalions that composed the 3rd Brigade since the time this division had arrived in Vietnam.

People in other choppers following Moore's began hopping out; I recognized many of them as colleagues from the press corps in Vietnam. Moore spotted me and walked over. "Looks like you found yourself a pretty good little fight," he grinned while looking around with eyes experienced at assessing such situations in Korea and Vietnam, including the 7th's Ia Drang Valley battles.

Then Moore nodded at the newly arrived reporters and cameramen milling around Sugdinnis' command group. "They're too late," he said. "We're going

to take care of those North Vietnamese before they even get an idea of what's going on."

"What's your plan now?" I

"Me? Why, I'm going to round up a couple of soldiers and go over and take that bunker over there," he said. "Want to come along?"

Strangely, I did. Moore was the kind of man who inspired confidence in people. It was good just to be around him; you somehow knew he would be successful in whatever mission he undertook.

But I could see Henri, crouched alongside an about-to-depart Huey, waving me over; I knew he was anxious to get this story and his photos onto the Associated Press wires. So was I, for that matter, and I was relieved to be leaving this place of death and pain.

Yet I was also sorry to be abandoning the soldiers of A Company. I had the feeling I was letting them down — I was ashamed that soon I would be in

a relatively safe place, doing what I got paid for, while they had to continue doing what soldiers do: fight, bleed and die.

My final view of LZ 4 was out the open door of a Huey as it lurched up and away. My only companions other than Henri were the half-dozen poncho wrapped bodies of A Company's dead.

But A Company's survivors along with the remnants of C Company, the relief force, did indeed clear out the bunker line and spent several more days pursuing remnants of the communist forces until no more could be found.

So that's at least some of the story not revealed in the after-action report. There was much more, of course, because in any battle a participant is only aware of developments he himself witnesses or hears about firsthand. And even though I had the advantage of free movement and further communication with Henri, there nevertheless were many more scenes that neither of us witnessed.

But there is one further footnote to A Company's accomplishments — it comes at the very end of the after-action summary and reads thus:

# **Totals for Operation Masher:**

VC KIA (body count) 503 VC KIA (estimated) 755 VC WIA (estimated) 357 VC Captured 242

As Hal Moore had said, it was "a pretty good little fight."

Bob Poos, former Executive Editor of Soldier Of Fortune and an experienced combat journalist, dedicates this story to the men who fought at LZ 4.



during tull in fighting. Bandaged and bloodied Viet Cong in foreground was found injured near An Thi on first day of fighting.

# MOHAMMED'S

Spreading Islam by the Sword - Again

> by Neil Livingscone Photos by Julian Gearing

he army of Islamic soldiers marches across southern Europe like Sherman through Georgia, conquering every country in their path. They continue undefeated until they reach the outskirts of Paris, to finally be stopped. Although this battle crests the Islamic tide in Europe, complete expulsion of Moslem rule will take another 700 years. Only a unified European effort makes their expulsion possible.

An unlikely scenario? Not really - it has happened before.

In the year 732, the Islamic onslaught of Furnish to the State of Paris in what is not control of the Burnish of Islamic expansionism. Following the great victory by Charles Martel, the Christian Lombard king known as "the Hammer," a shattered Moslem army retreated over the Pyrenees to Moorish Spain, yet more than 700 years would pass before Granada, the last Moorish kingdom in Spain, would fall.

Moslem influence in Europe continued to surge and wane until the Ottoman Empire, which had expanded to include what now comprises Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and much of Yugoslavia, was permanently banished from Europe. But not until the Balkan War of 1912-13 and the London Treaty of 1913 which carved up the remaining Turkish-held territory in Europe, was Islamic control over European territory completely broken.

Today, militant Islam is once again on the march.

This time, its wellspring is Iran and the peculiar brand of Shi'ite fundamentalism that is the legacy of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. No less than in the 8th century, the present Islamic tide presents a formidable threat to the future security and economic well-being of the West. To the Ayatollah's extreme adherents, no Moslem can rest until every inch of land that was once under Islamic control is recovered.

The most immediate threat is not to the West, however, but to the rest of the Islami

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# MILITANTS









In the early days, Islamic militants scrounged World War II relics, such as this shop full of Italian and British leftovers. Later, the Soviet Union and Western powers supplied them with small arms because they could be useful destabilizing factors in each other's spheres of influence. Now, the scenario and ground rules have changed: For hard currency, former Soviet officials will sell militant Islamic groups/nations the latest weapons — including nukes and delivery systems.

world, which is predominately Sunni Moslem rather than Shi'ite, and governed by a broad spectrum of mostly secular regimes, along with a few more moderate theocracies like Saudi Arabia.

The first step, say Iran's Immans, is to purify the Islamic world. Once that is done, then Islam can break out of its present borders and conquer new territories and populations in the name of Allah.

# The Purge, Then The Offensive

If you are Jewish, there's no room for you in Iran's new world order. In the Ayatollah's warped cosmology, Jews cannot save themselves even by converting to Islam. Christians, on the other hand, will be accepted as converts and therefore spared the sword and allowed to enjoy the fruits of paradise if they renounce the teachings of Jesus and instead adopt the word of Mohammed.

The reasons for Iran's new militancy and expansionism are complex. In many respects, the United States has made it possible. By defeating Iran's archenemy Saddam Hussein in the Persian Gulf War, the United States and its Coalition partners removed the principal check on Iran's behavior. Iraq, after all, had launched an eight-year war with Iran in the 1980s and represented the most immediate threat to the survival of the Ayatollah's fundamentalist regime. Although Iran was not part of the Coalition that defeated Saddam, it was chief beneficiary, along with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, from the war.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and its empire, Iran became more isolated than ever before. Throughout the 1980s, Syria was Iran's only real ally. But Syrian President Hafez al-Assad recognized that he no longer could buy room to maneuver by playing the United States against the

Soviet Union. Ever the pragmatist, he joined the anti-Iraq Coalition and even the ongoing Middle East peace talks. The Ayatollah's successors felt betrayed — they concluded the only way to end Iran's isolation was to bring about creation of other Islamic republics modeled along the lines of their own revolutionary state.

This process already was underway in Lebanon, where Iran's surrogates — Islamic Jihad and its action arm, Hezbollah — were vying for power against the Christians, Sunnis, Druse, Palestinians and other Lebanese factions. Fiercely anti-Western and anti-Israeli, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah had waged a decade-long war against the United States, which had seen the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks, with the loss of 241 servicemen; the bombing of the American Embassy and, subsequently, the embassy's annex; and the seizure of Western hostages like Terry Anderson, held for six years.

It also may be that Iran's leaders hope to reinvigorate their flagging revolution with a good dose of foreign adventurism, designed to divert public attention away from the declining economic and social situation at home. Strikes there have closed schools and some social services in recent months, and even halted oil production for a period of time.

One of Iran's first targets of opportunity was the Sudan, where a strongly anti-Western, Islamic fundamentalist regime had assumed power in 1989, in the aftermath of overthrowing the pro-Western government of Jaafar Nimeiri three years earlier.

When Sudanese leaders decided to support Saddam during the Gulf crisis, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait withdrew millions of dollars of support from Khartoum. This opened the door for Iran, which stepped

into the vacuum and promised the Sudanese economic and military aid, including badly needed oil at a premium discount. In December 1991, Iranian president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani made a state visit to the Sudanese capital to solidify the emerging Tehran-Khartoum axis.

Making good on its promise, Tehran has sent some captured Iraqi weapons to the Sudan, but has been less than forthcoming with economic assistance, in large measure because the Iranian government itself is strapped for cash. The Iranians have also announced they are establishing a number of so-called "medical centers" in the Sudan. A similar "medical center" was set up in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley during the 1980s and was used as a site to train Hezbollah terrorists. There is no evidence that the "medical center" ever provided medical treatment to the local population.

Perhaps the most disquieting aspect of the relationship concerns the emergence of the Sudan as a possible new terrorist center. Western intelligence sources have identified more than one-dozen foreign military training camps in the country, and Khartoum has made it clear that it is willing to provide safe haven to terrorists of every stripe and hue. Among the terrorist groups now with some presence in the Sudan are Abu Nidal's Black June, along with Hezbollah.

It appears Hezbollah operates most of the camps, and is turning out trained terrorists. Currently, on the other hand, Western analysts think the great majority of the graduates are actually being trained either for the Sudanese internal security forces, or to participate in the long-simmering guerrilla war in southern Sudan against the predominantly black Christian insurgents of the SPLA (Sudanese People's Liberation Army).

Sudan is unlikely to ever become a major terrorist center, because conditions there are so primitive. Modern terrorists require state-of-the-art telephone communications, fax machines, international

Enemies of Islam are fought on all fronts, in all areas. In the art of subversion and revolution as taught by past masters, the students, the disenfranchised and the angry are trained as soldiers, saboteurs or terrorists, often in "medical centers" established abroad by Tehran.



banking facilities and excellent air-travel connections. Khartoum, by contrast, is one of the most wretched cities in the world. Almost nothing there works. The buildings and roads are in an advanced stage of decay. Flights to and from the city are sporadic - hardly the kind of place a terrorist with a fat bank account would want to voluntarily spend time.

Thus, Sudan is likely only to become a terrorist haven of last resort. With the decline of Lebanon as a terrorist base, Cyprus has become the new terrorist center of choice. Virtually every Palestinian terrorist organization maintains some presence in Cyprus, as does Hezbollah and the remnants of nearly every European terrorist group. Indeed, with the beginning of the Gulf crisis, Cyprus became the Iranian nerve center for all terrorist and subversive operations in the Middle East.

# **Targeting Egypt And Algeria**

In December 1991, Algeria held its first democratic elections. The Iranianbacked Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) won an overwhelming victory in the first round of voting by securing 188 seats in the new parliament. The victory was unexpected and led to an outpouring of countermarches and street demonstrations in Algiers and other major cities.

Before the FIS could consolidate its hold on the Algerian government in the second round of voting, slated for mid-January this year, the military seized power and nullified the elections. It detained some 6,000 FIS supporters including many FIS leaders; another 20 to 30 were killed in clashes with the police and military.

The FIS had campaigned on a platform equating a vote for them with "a vote for God," and declaring that a vote against the FIS was "a vote against Islam." But it wasn't so much their message, but their money, that was the basis for their electoral success. Western intelligence sources now believe the Iranian government transferred between \$180 - \$200 million via France and Sudan to the FIS, which was able to blindside the other parties and run away with the election.

For the time being, Algeria's military is in firm control. But there is widespread dissatisfaction with existing government policies, and a growing sense that some kind of change is needed to address the nation's economic problems. Most Algerians, however, simply want a less corrupt, more responsive government, not the establishment of a fundamentalist Islamic republic. But the FIS still controls 80% of Algeria's 10,000 mosques, and that gives the party considerable clout, especially in the rural areas.

In addition, there is evidence that some FIS members have been provided with terrorist training in Iran and the Sudan; others served with the mujahideen in Afghanistan. The Afghani veterans operate under a black flag instead of the Islamic green flag, and are not only capable guerrilla fighters, but some unconfirmed reports suggest they may possess U.S.-made Stinger surface-to-air missiles. If no compromise can be reached in Algeria, civil war remains a real possibility, with the FIS's terrorist and Afghani cadres serving as the nucleus of a rebel army.

In view of the fact that more than 700,000 Algerians live in France, the Mitterrand government is deeply concerned by the situation in Algeria and afraid of a destabilizing spillover of violence.

Iranian-backed fundamentalist movements also are active in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt. A fundamentalist underground even exists in Libya and actively opposes the rule of Muammar Khadaffi. There is little question, however, that Iran's real target is Egypt, which is viewed as the linchpin of American policy in the region, and the only Arab country that has officially made peace with Israel. Iran hopes to surround or flank Egypt to isolate it and eventually institute a fundamentalist regime there.

Members of the Moslem Brotherhood are blamed for the assassination of former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, and the succeeding government of President Hosni Mubarak has waged an unrelenting campaign against the fundamentalists since taking office. Today the Moslem Brotherhood receives considerable financial support from Iran. Most of it is funneled to the Brotherhood from Hassan al-Turabi, an Egyptian exile who lives in Khartoum and serves as Tehran's chief operator in the Maghreb.

Should Sudan be used as a base from which to directly attack or destabilize Egypt, there is little doubt that Mubarak will send his tanks rolling southward. This could bring Egypt and Iran into direct conflict. It is fear of the rising tide of Islamic fundamentalism that is behind Egypt's efforts to mediate the dispute between the United Nations and Libva over the downing of Pan Am 103 and Libya's refusal to hand over two suspects in the bombing. The Mubarak government is said to believe destruction of the Khadaffi regime could lead to installation of an Iran-backed fundamentalist regime in Libya.

Iran's proxies in Lebanon, the Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, have been losing ground ever since Syria began to consolidate its control over the country. Under pressure from Iran, Hezbollah released (or brought about the release of ) all the Western hostages, with the exception of two

Abandonment of hostage-taking and a reduction in the level of terrorism left Hezbollah somewhat adrift and purposeless. Since Tehran regarded Hezbollah, and its parent organization, Islamic Jihad, as its vanguard in Lebanon, there was highlevel concern in Iran that new roles and missions would have to be found for its proxies in order to keep them intact and in fighting trim.

With the beginning of the Middle East

peace talks, Tehran directed Hezbollah to increase its pressure on Israel by stepping up terrorist and cross-border attacks, as well as to hit American and Israeli targets throughout the region and elsewhere. In support of these efforts, Tehran reinfused Hezbollah with money and weapons. Additionally, a large shipment of Czech-made Semtex was smuggled into Lebanon disguised as emergency food shipments. The shipment reportedly contained 2,500 kilos of the powerful plastic explosive.

To put this into perspective, investigators think that Pan Am 103, a wide-bodied Boeing 747, was brought down with around 1-kilogram of Semtex. Given the large size of the shipment, it is believed that the Semtex may have originated in the former Soviet Union, inasmuch as a great deal of Soviet military hardware is finding its way into the world's arms bazaars, sold by military men and local politicians fearful of an uncertain future and eager to feather their own nests while they still can.

In view of Hezbollah's resurgence, the Syrian-backed central government of Lebanon and the various factions vying for influence, especially the mainstream Shi'ite Amal militia, are braced for a new wave of terrorist and military attacks.

# **Picking Up Pieces Of The Soviet Union**

Iran is engaged in a massive effort to win influence in, and ultimately hegemony over, the five Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, especially Tajikistan, a Michigan-sized republic in central Asia. Although Tajikistan is closest to Iran in terms of both cultures and language (Farsi is the chief language), its people are not Shi'ites, but rather Sunni Moslems. Nevertheless, it is Iran's No. 1 target among the former Soviet Republics. Iran also has Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan in its sights.

In an effort to extend its influence, the Iranians are building or refurbishing thousands of mosques throughout the former Soviet republics while opening, you guessed it, "medical centers" to function as hubs of subversion. To counter growing Iranian influence, the governments of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, Pakistan, the U.A.E. and other Arab countries are also pouring money into the republics to build mosques, schools, so-called prayer houses and other Islamic institutions.

Iran underwrites most of the Islamic fundamentalist factions within the five republics, and has created a major training center for recruits from the various republics outside of Tehran. Housed in a palace that once belonged to the Shah known as the Imam Ali Garrison, it has "graduated" more than 250 agents disguised as mullahs and doctors. Their training includes instruction in languages, clandestine recruitment, the collection of intelligence, religious training, and organization of underground paramilitary groups. A small num-

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# **FULL AUTO**

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Posi-Grip texture material provides the proper gripping surface on H&K MP5 tropical-style and Laser Products' Sure-Fire No. 628 handguards, as high-anxiety will induce sweating, and the support hand is dangerously close to the MP5's muzzle.

However, if the weapon's flash signature is not important to you, as in daylight and/or in the increasingly popular civilian submachine gun competitive events or, heaven forbid, if you fire longer than two-shot bursts, then the TAC-COMP may be for you, as it will marginally tighten group dispersion by minimizing the MP5's already minimal muzzle jump.

No doubt about it, the TAC-COMP and other muzzle brakes of this type are all classroom examples of Newton's third law of motion: When one body interacts with a second body, the force of the first body on the second is equal in magnitude but opposite in direction to the force of the second body on the first (a consequence of the conservation of momentum law, and the definition of force as the time rate of linear momentum).

To me, Newton's third law of motion takes a decidedly second-place position to the first law — that of survival. I'll take my share of muzzle whip if the flash signature can be eliminated. H&K's MP5 flash suppressor is effective for this purpose. But, its method of attachment is all too typical of the Teutonic obsession with complexity and it can be a pain in the kazoo to install, or (even worse) remove, when fouled by baked-on carbon deposits and bullet jacket gilding.

Tim D. Bixler (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 660, Katy, TX 77449), a well-known figure in sound-suppressor circles, has taken the efficient six-oblong-port H&K MP5 flash suppressor and mated it with his patented (and highly regarded) MP5 sound-suppressor coupler. Just drop Bixler's two-piece flash hider assembly over the MP5's muzzle and its three lugs, then simply turn the flash hider body until it's snug up against the barrel. Two flat surfaces milled into the flash hider at its base permit use of a wrench for installation and removal.

The coupler is an investment casting made from 17-4 ph stainless steel. The flash hider itself is machined from bar stock and black-oxide finished. It costs \$75 and is well worth it.

# REFUGEE RELIEF

Continued from page 33

pushed them through Karen country back into Thailand and out of Burma. And yet, at the war's end, all of this was forgotten and the British gave up the Karens, the Kachin, the Mon and many other ethnic groups who had died for them and for us. They gave them up to the cruel Burmese military dictatorship that soon would gain control of the country.

On 5 January 1948, the Karens declared their independence from Burma and they have been fighting for their lives ever since. One of their famed poets has stated that the eight attributes of the true Karen are: 1. Knowledge that there is a God, the Divine Being. 2. High moral and ethical standards. 3. Honesty. 4. Simple, peaceful and quiet living. 5. Hospitality. 6. Language. 7. National costume. 8. Aptitude for music.

While in Htoo Wa Lu, we stayed at a Karen general's home. His name was La Tu. He and his entire extended family cared for all our needs while we were there. Each evening after we had spent a day and frequently half the night operating



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on his people, we would come home to a hot meal of rice, water buffalo or goat, and fresh fruit prepared by his wife and

Each night the general, a good Baptist, would pray for courage for his men, for the many blessings God had given the Karen nation, for ammunition and for compassion in their fight with the Burmese troops, who he realized were mostly young conscripts forced to fight by the military junta in Rangoon. As he finished his prayer one night, one of us murmured, "And you should also pray for Stingers."

"Yes," he exclaimed, "I hadn't thought of that. Yes, dear God, please send us Stingers." And every night after that, he always ended his prayer with "and please, dear God, send us Stingers."

Unless someone helps the Karens soon, they will be exterminated as a nation, possibly as a people. Few care or have even heard of the Karens. The world has

forgotten them.

# **Help For Politically Correct**

Even the thousands of Karens driven into Thailand who live in camps along the Moei River are not recognized by Thailand, the United Nations, or any other entity as being officially "refugees." Therefore they get no help from anyone, except from a few church groups who supply them the best they can with food and a little medicine.

Most of the "peace loving" medical

foundations will help only if people meet certain criteria. For instance, they will not care for soldiers or people that support the war. The Karens, who as a nation are all involved in the war for freedom, do not meet the criteria of these foundations.

I was called in February by Bob Brenner, who heads a small medical foundation called Freedom Medicine. He now works in Bangkok and is involved in a mosquito eradication project. He learned of the Karens because of the drug-resistant strains of malaria along the Thai-Burmese border. He found they had three doctors who wanted to help, but had no surgical experience.

Bob also learned of the many wounds Karens suffer almost daily. When he called me, he explained the situation and asked if I and possibly other doctors trained in battlefield surgery could come to Thailand and Burma for a short time to help train Karen doctors. I told him I would try.

### **Maverick Medics**

The first two doctors I called were David Crowder and Forrest Smith. Both are excellent surgeons and have military backgrounds. Both volunteered without hesitation.

When I warned they might be going into a relatively hostile environment which harbored drug-resistant malaria, unmapped minefields, MiG-23s, Mi-8 helicopters and cobras (the crawling type), both doctors chuckled and reminded me of the freeway traffic, muggers and hostile hospital administrators they faced every day in the States.

Both said a trip to Burma might be a relaxing change of pace. All three of us worked hard and long during the few days we spent with the Karens. By the time we left, their doctors could amputate, put in chest tubes, give spinal anesthesia, and they had acquired other basic surgical skills. Hopefully, they will be able to use these to good effect as they continue their fight against the Burmese army. If they can make it to the end of April when the monsoons start, then they will be safe for another year, because the war will stop during the rainy season when travel is impossible.

If they can hold out, David, Forrest and I will go back to try and assist the Karens in any way we can. If any people ever deserved the help of freedom-loving people in America, it is the Karens. They and 32 other small ethnic groups are fighting for their lives. The Karens want us to give special thanks to the good people of the little church in Sunnyvale, California, as well as all Soldier Of Fortune readers who sent money for the Karen Medical Project. With these generous donations we were able to purchase medical supplies in Bangkok that directly saved the lives of several young Karen men.

But they need more help - we will go again - this will require more funds. We



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The Karens can use anything anyone can send them - money, or medical supplies of all kinds. They are washing out their old bloody dressings and reusing them because they have no new bandages. They reuse and boil old rubber gloves because they have no new ones. They sterilize their instruments in an old pressure cooker. They have no anesthesia equipment, no resuscitation equipment. But they have hope. And they have a dream ...

Postscript: After RRI medics returned home, they learned the Karens' hospital and surrounding areas were overrun by Burmese, with 200 Karens killed. We do not know if doctors or friends in Htoo Wa Lu survived.

Meanwhile, there are published reports of Burmese government claims that bowing to international pressure - they have decided to end their war on the Karens. Only time will tell if this is true, or merely words designed to ease international pressure while the government regroups during the rainy season, RRI will continue to aid the Karens in any way it can. The physicians who were there in March remain free for speaking engagements to raise money for Karen medical projects.

Dr. John Peters is SOF's Contributing Editor for paramedic operations.

# ISLAM

Continued from page 65

ber of recruits are also given advanced weapons and explosives instruction.

Further, Tehran beams constant radio broadcasts at the former Soviet republics, although some observers say the shrill tone of much of the programming has been counterproductive.

Since Tajikistan shares no common border with Iran, Tehran has stepped up its efforts to co-opt the Afghan mujahideen organization Hezb-i-Islami, headed by Gulbaddin Hekmatyar. One of the chief recipients of CIA largess, Hekmatyar is a Moslem fundamentalist and so ruthless that smart money is betting that he'll be around to pick up the pieces when the Afghan civil war sorts itself out, now that the Soviet-backed central government has been toppled.

Four times the size of Texas, Kazakhstan is the second most populous of the five Islamic republics. Kazakhstan is of special interest because 104 SS-18 intercontinental ballistic missiles, with 1.040 nuclear warheads, are positioned on its territory. Iranian-backed extremists have

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found some support in southern parts of the republic, but most citizens there are opposed to strict behavioral tenets espoused by fundamentalists.

Turkey is playing a major role in the modernization of Kazakhstan, where there appears to be little real opportunity for Iranian-backed fundamentalists unless there is a major upheaval of some kind. But this could happen if pro-Russian elements in the northern half of the country are successful in their drive to break away and join the Russian republic. This would leave the southern half of the country a ripe target for Iranian subversion.

At the present time, the communist party is still in control of Turkmenistan, which shares the longest border with Iran of any of the five Islamic former Soviet republics and has substantial reserves of oil and natural gas. While a few Islamic fundamentalist rabble-rousers have appeared on the scene, they've attracted little following. Iran is competing with Turkey for influence in Turkmenistan, and has agreed to construct a new railway line connecting Ashkhabad with northern Iran and also to extend \$50 million in credits to the republic for the purchase of Iranian goods. Most observers say Turkey will win out in the end, but the situation is still in flux and anything can happen.

Turkey also seems to be winning in the contest for influence in Kirgizstan, which has a stable government and has developed a rudimentary free-market economy. By contrast, Uzbekistan's economic prospects are bleak, and if there should be an economic collapse, substantial segments of the population might be persuaded to follow an Iranian-backed Pied Piper.

# An Appetite Whetted By Feeding

Iran also is supplying money to Jordan's Fundamentalist Front, while the Jordanian government is worried about the sudden increase in personnel at Iran's embassy in Amman. Although identified as diplomats, Jordanian officials believe that most of the new people are intelligence agents sent to provide closer support of, and coordination with, the fundamentalists.

Iranian subversion against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) is ongoing and unrelenting. Although Iraq's Hussein brutally suppressed a Shi'ite uprising in southern Iraq that was supported and encouraged by Iran in the aftermath of the Gulf War, the anti-Baghdad Shi'ite forces are slowly beginning to recover and could once again challenge the central government at some point down the road.

Baghdad plays the same game as Iran, arming and supporting Iranian dissidents opposed to the current regime in Tehran. On 4 April 1992, Iraqi-backed rebels carried out an attack on two villages inside Iran; the following day Iran responded with an air raid on the rebels' base, 60 miles from Baghdad. One Iranian F-4 Phantom was shot down in the attack, which repre-



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sents the most serious cross-border incident since the armistice.

But it is Saudi Arabia that remains Tehran's most coveted target, both because of its unmatched oil reserves, which could be used to underwrite the costs of the fundamentalist juggernaut envisioned by Iran's mullahs, and because it is the protector of Islam's two holyest places: Mecca and Medina.

The 1979 seizure of the Grand Mosque at Mecca by Islamic fundamentalists, who received backing from Iran and Libya, shook the Saudi government to its very core. The fundamentalists were followers of a religious fanatic by the name of Mohammed ibn-Abdullah Qahtani, a selfproclaimed Mahdi (or "final prophet"). Just before launching their attack, they invoked the name of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. The Saudi government was forced to request assistance from the French to recover the Grand Mosque, where no infidel or unbeliever is ever supposed to set foot.

Assisted by a Jordanian special operations unit, to give the effort an Islamic imprimatur, French GIGN (Groupment d'Intervention Gendarmerie National) commandos used both tear gas and asphyxiating gases to flush the fundamentalists from the labyrinth of tunnels beneath the Grand Mosque. Many of those fundamentalists chose to fight to the death; the battle was fought bitterly at close quarters. When it was over, more than 1,000 people were dead and wounded. Of the 170 fundamentalists who surrendered, 63 were later beheaded.

Although he lost an arm in the fighting, the bogus Mahdi was captured and later brutally interrogated by the Saudis. The Saudis have never acknowledged capturing the Mahdi, and it is assumed they ultimately executed him.

The Israelis reportedly captured Qahtani's brother-in-law, the alleged mastermind of the whole operation, hiding in southern Lebanon. In an unprecedented move, the Israelis are said to have secretly turned him over to the Saudis. His fate is unknown, but can be guessed.

Now, 13 years later, the Saudis still remain more traumatized by the Grand Mosque incident than even the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. While the ruling family is Sunni Moslem, Saudi Arabia's vast oil fields lie in the Shi'ite-dominated eastern portion of the country. In an unprecedented move, the Saudi government has arrested a number of Islamic militants in recent months. Most were members of the religious police, who staged a demonstration near the palace of Riyadh's governor, Prince Salman.

There also is division within the royal family itself. Crown Prince Abdullah, first in line of succession after King Fahd, is a fundamentalist who opposes Western influence in his country and favors a policy of accommodation with Saudi Arabia's enemies, including Iraq and Iran. Abdullah



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and his allies also blocked the U.S. proposal to pre-position ground combat equipment in the kingdom to be used by American troops in the event of another conflict. Abdullah is said to believe that if Saudi Arabia purges itself of foreign influences. it will be far less vulnerable to the lure and designs of Iranian-backed fundamentalists.

In late 1991, Prince Sultan, the pro-American defense minister, and his two prominent and highly Westernized sons Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar, and former commander-in-chief of Coalition forces Prince Khalid - led a quiet effort to change the order of succession and bypass Abdullah. However, they failed and have been in eclipse ever since.

Next month, Livingstone brings Islam's holy war against the United States and Israel into focus; he details Iran's procurement of nuclear devices from Islamic former Soviet republics, along with delivery systems from China - don't

Neil Livingstone is an adjunct professor at several institutions, including Georgetown University, A frequent contributor, his areas of expertise include terrorism and security topics.

# CROATIA

Continued from page 37

bloody hungry and I'm getting on that plane, so if you want to stop me, you had better pull out that pistol and fucking well shoot me."

I'm sure he thought about it for a second, because I don't think he had been trained to deal with an aggressive and stubborn Australian who didn't want to play

After a few hurried phone calls I was told I could proceed as long as I took off my jacket, as it had military insignia on it. "Yeah, sure - so long as you're looking," I replied.

Then the cheeky bastard asked if he could have the Royal Australian Regiment badge off my slouch hat as a souvenir!

A former Australian soldier, "Skippy" Hampstead currently lives in London. X

# SHOOT OUT

Continued from page 51

targets with your handgun, then your shotgun, and then a carbine of some sort. It gets the blood running, if you'll pardon the pun."

Last year's top cop award went to Scott Anderson of the Salem, Oregon, Police Department. Prizes included a AR-15 in .40 S&W, a CZ 75 in .40 S&W and a 12-



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SOF Las Vegas ......18

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gauge pump shotgun with magazine feed. Mar donates a number of his classic knives, while Glock sends out their military blades as well. Don Coons of SNC in Oregon City (the largest Oregon police supply outlet) donated ammo, reloading equipment and accessories. Overall, the prize table was as impressive as it was overflowing.

Already, Mar and his team are planning this year's shootfest. "I think we'll make the sniper stage a 'cold gun' affair,' Mar predicted. "You're given the scenario, you take your weapon out of its case and you get one chance to take the shot. No warm-up, no fine-tuning. Just like the street."

Every year, more and more officers attend the AMK Invitational. "You shoot serious scenarios here," pointed out a veteran street cop. "This is not a professional competitor's match, and it's really funny to watch the professional shooters attempt to negotiate this range. They end up frustrated because they don't understand that on the street there are no 'rules,' or compguns or crap like that. There are no second chances."

"AMK supports safe, realistic firearms training for our law enforcement officers," Mar said. "We have fun, and we promote the positive aspects of gun ownership and shooting. Every year we get a little bigger and a little better. But if you're planning to attend, expect to get dirty!"

For further information on the AMK Law Enforcement Invitational, call 503-635-9229.

### COMBAT TOWN

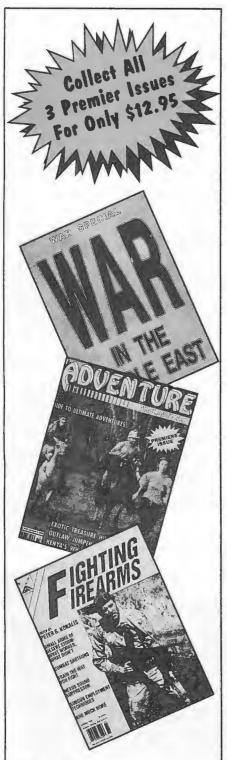
Continued from page 43

get to the door, we're going in - straight to the threat. They [civilian police] do a lot more slow and deliberate entries," he said, "and they taught us some things."

"We'd already been to Fort Jackson, but we've learned a lot more here,' Spartanburg police Sergeant James Powell observed. "This is great." In addition to the FBI and Spartanburg County officers. state bureaus of investigation have trained at the facility. Saturdays and Sundays have been set aside for use by law enforcement units. Four days weekly are reserved for military units, with a day retained for maintenance.

Unit commanders (military, or civilian police) interested in having their groups train at Combat Town should write - on unit or departmental letterhead - to: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Training and Operations Branch; Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-50001. If a unit commander has a good idea and can get into the schedule, odds are good for his unit's use of the facility.

Night training is also conducted, with guest units supplying all their own gear and NVGs. The flexibility of options for training at Combat Town reflects the "can-



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do" Marine approach. During the Gulf War, Combat Town operated at capacity, and in 1991 some 60,000 military personnel rotated through the town.

Is all this worth \$7.9 million? Maybe you should ask members of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. They trained here extensively before their history-making attack on Kuwait City. \$7.9 million? What's the going rate for freedom these days?

### My Tour In Combat Town

In response to my need for a groundlevel story on Combat Town, the 2nd ANGLICO (Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company) troops training there extended me access.

Rattling echoes of machine-gun fire drew me into what was left of a tan, twostory apartment building - where I savored my first taste of military operations in urban terrain.

Inside the structure, an acrid stench of gun smoke filled my nose as I stood motionless and wide-eyed beside eight automatic weapons and the eight men in camouflage who carried them.

Careful not to make a sound, I tiptoed behind them while they crept down a long, dark passageway to a closed door, their weapons covering possible threats in every direction. Outside, the fighting had ceased, leaving an eerie silence as the men stopped a few feet from the doorway.

A crack in the broken shell of a wall threw a sliver of light on the rugged face of the team leader; as he approached the door, sunlight from an open window lit him up like a target in a shooting gallery.

Seizing the opportunity, I carefully framed him in my camera sights - I never even had a chance. "Go!" yelled the leader, as he kicked open the door, triggering a chain reaction of speed and violence.

Rounds exploded from the muzzle of a machine gun. "I'm in!" screamed a voice.

"Go left! Go left!" shouted another. Automatic weapons unleashed a fury of firepower, quicker than their brass casings could hit the floor.

"Big pig! Big pig!" hollered four voices in unison. To me, it meant nothing. To the four remaining men covering the doorway, it meant "mission accomplished." The Marines of 2nd ANGLICO had cleared their objective - and I had a picture of someone's back.

### Looks Good To Me ...

"So what do you think?" asked Corporal Chris Huckenpoehler, the team's leader.

"What do I think about what?" I replied, trying hard not to look impressed. I wanted to tell him his team was too good, quicker than me and my camera at least, but there would be time for that later. Right now I had a head-full of questions I knew he could answer, and MOUT was the only thing on my mind.

"It's organized confusion," Huckenpoehler observed, anticipating a



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question I had yet to ask. "The rooms are set up in so many different configurations, you really don't know what you're walking into. That's why you have to stick to the basics."

Standing 3 inches taller than the 6-foot wall he leaned against, the 24-year-old firepower control chief spoke with natural authority. A four-year veteran of the ANGLICO team, he knew what he was talking about. I knew it; his team knew it, but most of all, he knew it. "You see, every man has to be aware of what the other man is doing," the corporal said, "almost to the point of reading each other's mind. If you can stick to the basics, you can take the room - and then it's just room, by room, by room. Make sense?"

"Oh yeah, right, the basics," I acknowledged, sounding a lot like Jerry Lewis agreeing with the theory of relativity. "Just one question ... what are the basics?"

"Well, the most important thing is making sure you and your team stay alive," Huckenpoehler said, "and that means covering your areas."

A native of Annapolis, Maryland, Huckenpoehler also stressed the importance of talking during the operation. "Talking?" I asked.

"Yeah, you heard us in there," he continued. "If you're taking a window, you're talking the whole time. You say, 'I've got a window! You take left! I'll take right!' And you can't hesitate once you get there. You need to use speed, surprise and violence of action."

"But if you're moving that fast, how can you tell whether or not they're an enemy?" I asked.

"Everyone is perceived as a threat until the room is secured," the corporal replied. "Nobody - I mean no one - is a friend ... we're looking for the man with the gun. If someone is in there with a gun, they get shot!" Crushing out a partially smoked Marlboro, Huckenpoehler signaled to his men, and with that, the conversation

"Three minutes," said a young lieutenant entering the room. "Three minutes to clear the entire building and complete the objective ... not bad." The Marines on the team smiled; the lieutenant didn't.

"It should have taken you half that time," he said, pointing out where the team had lost one of the most important assets in MOUT: time. "Let's do it again."

They grabbed their weapons and I grabbed my camera. I knew, this time, I would be quicker. They knew this time they had to be.

Corporal Karl C. Ulrich, USMC, is a staffer at Profile magazine.

### SUPPORT THE NRA!

### WAR IN L.A.

Continued from page 57

chology doesn't seem to understand that when the adrenal glands kick in, cognition goes out the window. Instinct says to either run like hell or stomp the threat into a grease spot. The only thing that can mitigate that response is constant, repetitive training.

Lieutenant John Duncan of the LAPD's public relations office said that officers receive such training, at least in the academy. We must assume that the Simi Valley jury thought the four officers were acting within LAPD guidelines.

So I asked Lt. Duncan what those guidelines were. "Sufficient force can be applied to gain compliance of the suspect," he replied, "only what is reasonable and necessary."

"Reasonable" is the key term here. Both the beating and the riots are examples of the same mob psychology at work. There was no reason to it. When the adrenals kick in, you go nuts.

Back when the video of the King beating first appeared, I had talked about it to a motorcycle cop giving me a jaywalking ticket. He was one of these little dudes who like to get right up in your face, but he was solidly professional and I enjoyed talking to him while he wrote me up.

"Anybody give you a hard time about this King business?" I asked him.

"Yeah, they do," he said. "I just tell

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them I don't do stuff like that and I don't condone it. That pretty much closes off the discussion."

Of all the cops I talked to after the riots were over, none thought the beating was justified or that the not-guilty verdict was right. But none thought the beating was worth jail-time either.

Very few were willing to be quoted by name, but one said, "They didn't set out to bash him - they just lost it. They were guilty, and they should have been punished. But the loss of their careers was sufficient punishment,"

Officer Clint Armas didn't want to talk about the verdict at all. "I have my personal opinion. But the department is going through upheavals and changes. It's probably best if I don't comment about that," he said.

But when I mentioned Lt. Moulin's order, and that Chief Gates seemed to be trying to shift the blame downward, Armas stated firmly, "All his superiors showed up at the command post, and nobody countermanded his order."

Armas had no hesitancy to comment on the rioters. "I don't think," he said, "at least in my patrol area, that the riots had anything to do with Rodney King. Maybe for the first three hours, then everybody jumped on the bandwagon. Most of the rioters in Wilshire didn't speak English. We're talking about criminals and degenerates who took advantage of a situation."

Officer Kolar, the young woman on

the desk at 77th Street Division, refused to comment at all. The LAPD has suffered rather heavily at the hands of journalists. At 77th Street, only one officer would comment, and at that, anonymously: "Gates fiddled while Rome burned. We wanted back on the streets; they wouldn't let us go and we let our people down. We'll be a long time making up for it."

One man who had no hesitancy to speak at all was Manny Lopez, formerly a sergeant on the San Diego Police Department and head of the controversial Border Area Robbery Force unit. Now a private investigator in San Diego, Lopez was in a perfect position to evaluate the riots - knowledgeable, but far-enough removed to be objective.

'I totally disagree with the verdict. There was no justification to complete that beating. The officers' initial reaction was correct, but there was no justification for Powell to continue the beating," Lopez said. "As for Sergeant Koon, he didn't do his job. He was in charge, and should have stopped Powell.

"Gates' response [to the unrest following the verdict] was a joke. I mean, going off to a civic meeting - come on. The street level cops wanted to do a job. I felt sorry for them.

"But, as for the sentence, I think being fired and civil penalties will suffice," Lopez observed.

One last quote, from the Times' sometimes biased, but usually outstanding coverage of the police department, speaks volumes about the mentality of the man who led the LAPD. Some time back, Chief Gates was asked why so many young black men were dying from baton choke-holds.

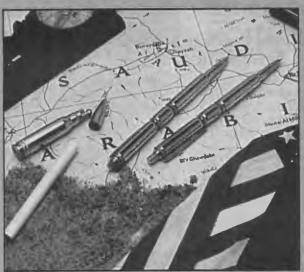
"Perhaps their larynxes are different from normal people," Gate reportedly answered.

It if appears that I'm trying to pin guilt for the whole 54 dead and \$1-billion-dollar property damage on Chief Gates, that is essentially correct. There is no authority without responsibility, and this man set the tone for his department. Chief Gates is a highly intelligent man, not without wit, a cop's cop. But his ego is involved here, and he screwed up almost as badly as someone can screw up. As his replacement, Chief Willie Williams, said, "He is vesterday's man."

He should have gone a long time ago.

Jim Morris is a Vietnam veteran who currently lives and writes in Southern California. His numerous books include War Story and The Devil's Secret Name.

Next month's SOF will feature a different perspective on the Rodney King incident. Did the national media censor parts of the video that seemed to explain why the police did what they did? What was the evidence used by the jury in coming to their verdict? Our September issue will contain the information the press didn't choose to show.



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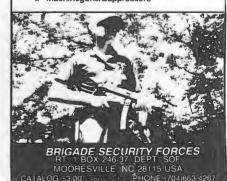


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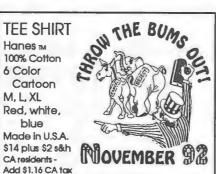


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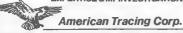
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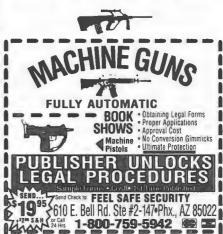
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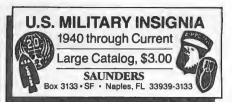
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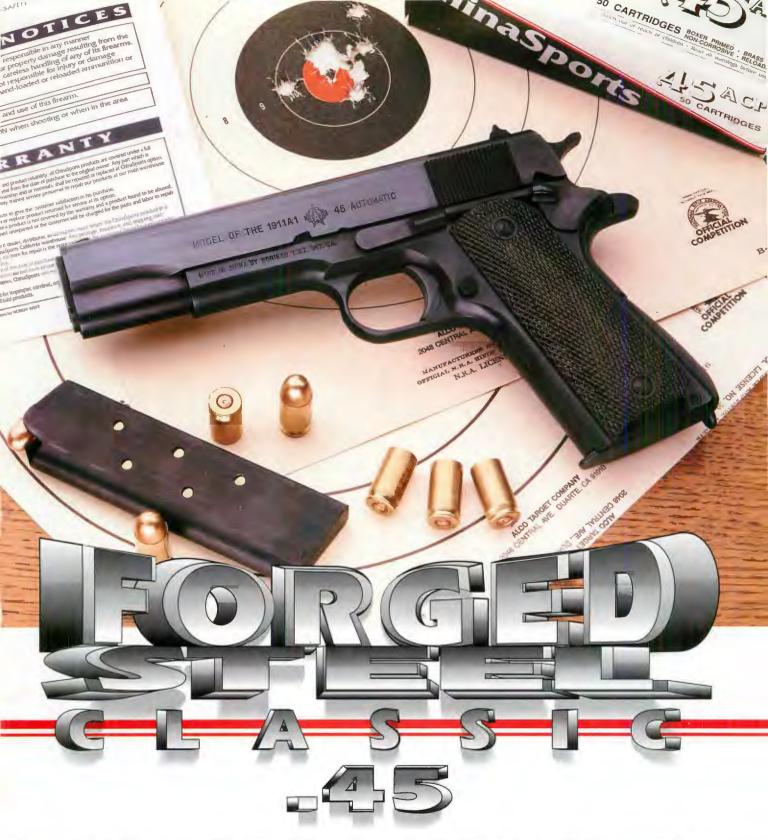
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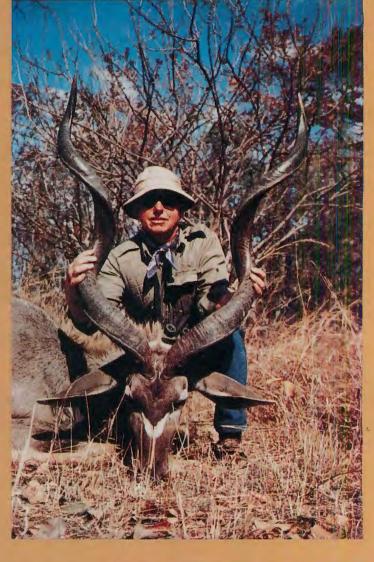
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